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COMMENT OF THE DAY

HK Products

AS a colourful, attractive and intriguing display of the ever-increasing range and variety of Hongkong products, the Chinese Manufacturers Union exhibition which opened yesterday is assured of success. We hope it will achieve with equal success its aim of attracting substantial orders from overseas buyers. The significance of this objective behind the annual exhibition has grown with the years and because of the special trading circumstances which have arisen or been created since 1950. One of the points stressed by Sir Alexander Grantham and other speakers yesterday was the swift manner in which local industries have become an integral part of the Colony's economy since the war. And this has been further emphasised in consequence of the adverse effects which embargoes and restrictions have had and are still having on Hongkong's entrepot trade. Industries have a big part to play in the future of Hongkong and their sustenance and expansion is a matter of prime importance. For this reason alone the annual CMU exhibition is a significant event.

GENERAL satisfaction will be derived from the disclosure that this year there are more display stalls than ever, and even more encouraging is His Excellency's revelation of the substantial increase in spinning spindles and the installation of modern textile plant in a number of mills. This is development in the right direction. The prime purpose of the exhibition is to attract the attention and interest of overseas buyers. It is precisely this consideration which prompts the question whether the exhibition is being staged at the most suitable time of the year. The Christmas period is not the most convenient for British, American, Canadian, South African and Australian buyers to come to Hongkong to examine our latest array of wares, and it is conceivable that more traders from those countries would be attracted to the exhibition if it were held in the early months of the year. We commend the thought to the organisers of what is, undoubtedly, a magnificent shop-window display of Hongkong products.

DULLES' BOMBSHELL FOR FRANCE

US May Have To Alter Her Aid Europe Policy

EUROPEAN ARMY PACT MUST BE SIGNED

Paris, Dec. 14. France received as a bombshell Mr Dulles' warning today that unless the European Army treaty is adopted soon, America will make an "agonising reappraisal" of her aid Europe policy. French opponents of the treaty in its present form in the National Assembly lobbies were shocked by what they described as "inadmissible pressure."

Mr Dulles recalled that, under a law adopted by Congress, in six months' time aid to the countries who had signed the European Army treaty could only be delivered to the European Defence Community. If that Community did not exist deliveries could no longer be made.

Never before has any American statesman said so unambiguously that refusal to ratify the EDC treaty would mean a cessation or decrease in American military aid.

The statement seemed to clash with the demand put forward by the French Foreign Secretary, M. Georges Bidault, earlier today that "the development of the Atlantic Alliance is a condition of the existence of the European Defence Organisation."

MRS JAGAN ON BAIL

Georgetown, Br. Guiana, Dec. 14. Mrs Janet Jagan, Chicago-born Secretary of the Left Wing Progressive People's Party, and nine other Party members were freed on bond today on "charges" of violating this country's emergency regulations.

They were arrested last night while holding an unauthorised meeting at Cornelia Ida, a coastal village 15 miles from Georgetown.

Mrs Jagan and her associates claimed they were holding a religious meeting.

Under emergency regulations proclaimed by the Governor last October, the assembly of more than five persons without police permission is forbidden.

The police said a crowd of about 300 was at last night's meeting.—United Press.

Debate On Trieste Postponed

Russia Outvoted

New York, Dec. 14. The United Nations Security Council postponed debating the Trieste dispute today for the fourth time and set no date for a future debate on it.

The Soviet delegate, Mr Andrei Vyshinsky, strongly opposed the postponement sought by the Western powers. He alleged that the postponement was tantamount to the rejection of his proposal that Colonel Hermann Flueckiger, of Switzerland, should be appointed Governor of the Free Territory of Trieste.

The Western powers contended that a debate on Trieste by the Council would serve no useful purpose at this time, while diplomatic negotiations were in progress in an attempt to solve the problem.

The vote in favour of an indefinite postponement was eight to one, with one abstention. Russia voted against the motion; the abstainer was the Lebanon.

The eleventh member of the Council, Pakistan, was absent when the vote was taken.

TENSION RELAXES

The Council first met on October 20 to consider Mr Vyshinsky's request for the appointment of a governor for the Trieste Free Territory.

Mr James J. Wadsworth (United States) and Sir Gladwyn Jebb (Britain) called attention to the relaxation of tension, notably the withdrawal of troops by both sides.

Mr Wadsworth said measures of a non-military nature had likewise contributed to the relaxation of tension.

Sir Gladwyn Jebb (Britain) described the withdrawal of the troops of both sides as a "wise and statesmanlike decision" which had undoubtedly already eased tension and reduced the threat to peace in that area.

A debate in the Council at this time was bound to be sterile and unproductive and Britain would, therefore, support postponement of the discussion, he said.

The Council has before it Russia's proposal to appoint General Herman Flueckiger (Switzerland) Governor of the Free Territory of Trieste.

Three times the Council has postponed a debate on the issue, and today Mr Vyshinsky said he was "fully alive to the fact that it will not be of much use to debate the question as to whether to postpone this question again or not."

He added: "I realise that a substantial number of members have already agreed in advance on the decision."

"SOLUTION AT HAND"

Mr Vyshinsky said a peaceful solution of the Trieste question was already at hand in the Italian peace treaty, which called for the appointment of a Governor of the Free Territory by the Security Council.

He accused the Western powers of "hypocrisy" in not saying publicly that they wanted to do away with the peace treaty.

"The negotiations going on have nothing in common with a genuinely fair solution of this situation," he said. He said that the last time the Council postponed a debate on Trieste great hopes had been planned on the Bermuda conference coming up with a solution.

"Bermuda did not change the situation," Mr Vyshinsky added. The difficulties had not been alleviated, they had been aggravated, he said.—Reuter.

WHITEHALL SILENCE

London, Dec. 14. While official circles in London maintained an embarrassed silence over the statement made by the American Secretary of State, Mr John Foster Dulles, today that the United States might have to take a "tragic decision" if the European Defence Community treaty was not ratified soon, political circles said that Mr Dulles' statements did not correspond with agreements made at the recent Bermuda conference.

Stating that Britain "did not contemplate any withdrawal of British troops from Europe if the treaty were not ratified," these circles said that the three Western powers were reported to have agreed at Bermuda that, for the present, at least, there could be no change of policy in Europe if the French parliament failed to ratify the treaty.

The Foreign Office declined to comment on Mr Dulles' statement, which was made at a press conference in Paris, where he is attending the sessions of the North Atlantic Council of Ministers.—France-Press.

CONFERENCES

London, Dec. 14. General Vladimir Velich, Yugoslav's Ambassador to Britain, conferred here today on the Trieste dispute with Sir Ivor H. Kirkpatrick, permanent official Head of the Foreign Office.

A Yugoslav Embassy spokesman said the Ambassador called at the Foreign Office at his own request.—Reuter.

15 DROWNED IN FLASH FLOOD

La Paz, Dec. 14. Fifteen workers were swept to their deaths today by a flash flood of the Orinoco River.

The men had been erecting a dam across the stream. Thirteen bodies have been recovered.—United Press.

"Safety First" For The Christmas Turkeys



"Simon" and "Prince" guard the Christmas dinners against unwanted visitors at a turkey farm at Stansted, Essex, where the birds are being fattened for the festive season. — London-Express.

Suva Lights Up For Royal Visit

Thursday Is The Great Day

Suva, Fiji, Dec. 15. Suva's waterfront was a fairyland of coloured lights last night with the capital of the Fiji Islands in its full festive dress, ready to welcome the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on Thursday.

All the streets are festooned with decorations and the less attractive parts of the town are concealed by bamboo fences.

A full dress rehearsal of the welcome took place today but the work of refurbishing the roads continued at the same time.

Lady Garvey, wife of the Governor, Sir Ronald Garvey, was one of hundreds who had to walk over newly laid tar during the rehearsal at the wharf side when she took the role of the Queen.

A huge steam roller smoothing out the road surface stopped only when forced to a standstill by the mounting of the Guard of Honour.

More than 2,000 people took part in the rehearsal conducted with meticulous precision by the Governor in a temperature of 83 degrees F. in the shade.

SOLEMN CEREMONY

Hundreds of excited islanders watched fascinated by every detail of the procedure which included the solemn Kava Bowl ceremony, a traditional Fijian rite.

When the Queen arrives she will be solemnly presented with a huge mound of enticing South Sea food in accordance with the ancient custom of welcoming an honoured guest with a full larder.

It is expected here that the vast store of food will be taken aboard the Gothic where the Queen will live during her two-day visit, and the New Zealand escort cruiser, Black Prince.

There will be enough to feed both ships' companies as well as the Royal party on the four-day voyage from the Fiji Islands to Auckland, New Zealand.

Today's fine weather has lessened the fear of hurricanes and it is expected to remain sunny for the Queen's visit.

What is still doubted is whether the Fijian tradition that honoured guests should be received with a dutiful welcome of silence will be respected.

Custom regards cheering and hand clapping as insulting.—Reuter.

Panmunjom Rupture Causes Pessimism In Washington

Washington, Dec. 15.

The latest rupture in the Panmunjom negotiations has created deep pessimism in Washington official circles over the prospects of a Korean peace conference.

The view here is that unless there is a change in the Communist attitude the talks may collapse.

The walkout of the United States envoy, Mr Arthur Dean, from the conference, was not entirely unexpected in view of the lack of progress toward any agreement in the past seven weeks.

"The next move is up to the Communists," one State Department source said.

"The patience of our side has been stretched to the extreme and whether we go back to the talks will depend upon a change in the attitude of the Communists."

Mr Dean withdrew from the talks on Saturday and prepared to leave for Washington tomorrow for consultations after telling the Communists that the talks could be resumed if they attempted two conditions.

These were the withdrawal of charges that the United Nations Command had plotted with the Korean President Dr Syngman Rhee to free 27,000 North Korean war prisoners unwilling to be repatriated and also that the Communists indicated they would negotiate in a "reasonable manner" for a peace conference.

CAN BE RESUMED

It was emphasised here that the Panmunjom talks were not primarily brought off by Mr Dean's walkout.

His chief assistant, Mr Kenneth Young, was authorised to resume them if the Communists withdrew their charges and "showed good faith."

State Department officials indicated they had no doubt that the Communists were deliberately trying to provoke a situation.

Death Sentence Quashed

Singapore, Dec. 15.

An appeal court has quashed the death sentence imposed here last month on the 10-year-old Chinese boy, Gan Eng Lock, who murdered his mother's maid.

It was alleged during the trial that the murder took place when the boy was only 15 and not liable to the death sentence.

"At the trial doctors stated the boy suffered from a split personality and was in a 'delusional state' when examined."

The Appeals Court found Gan "guilty but insane" and ordered him to be dealt with as the authorities might direct.—Reuter.

Lifeboat Rescue

Redcar, Yorkshire, Dec. 14.

The Redcar lifeboat rescued 20 crewmen from the foundered 5,000-ton Greek vessel Dimitris which ran aground off the Yorkshire coast today.

Coast Guards reported all the crew members were accounted for. The Dimitris was carrying a cargo of ore.—United Press.

Rail Strike Threat Govt's Race Against Time

CABINET MEETS

London, Dec. 15. The British Government last night began a desperate race against time to avert a threatened Christmas strike of 400,000 key railwaymen.

It has six days to try to block the nationwide stoppage, which would ruin the Christmas travel and mailing plans of millions of people and hamstring the transport of vital food and other materials.

The Government made important moves last night in the pay crisis in the state-owned rail system.

First, Sir Walter Monckton, Minister of Labour, called a swift series of meetings with the British Transport Commission and the three unions involved.

The 82-year-old Minister urged both parties to "think again" and questioned the reason for the failure—for the first time in 18 years—of the railway arbitration machinery.

Then he arranged to meet both parties again today (Tuesday), though union chiefs declared after the meeting: "The strike is still on."

EMERGENCY MEETING

Sir Winston Churchill called his 19-man Conservative Cabinet to an emergency meeting, which began at about 7 o'clock GMT last night to hear a report from Sir Walter Monckton.

After the Cabinet meeting, which lasted 75 minutes, the unusual course was taken of issuing a statement. Normally, strict secrecy is kept on all Cabinet business.

The statement said: "A special meeting of the Cabinet was held in the House of Commons this evening to review the latest developments in the railway wages dispute."

"The Minister of Labour reported the course of discussions, which he held during the day with the British Transport Commission and the trade unions concerned."

"These discussions will be continued tomorrow. Further meetings of the Cabinet will be held if necessary."

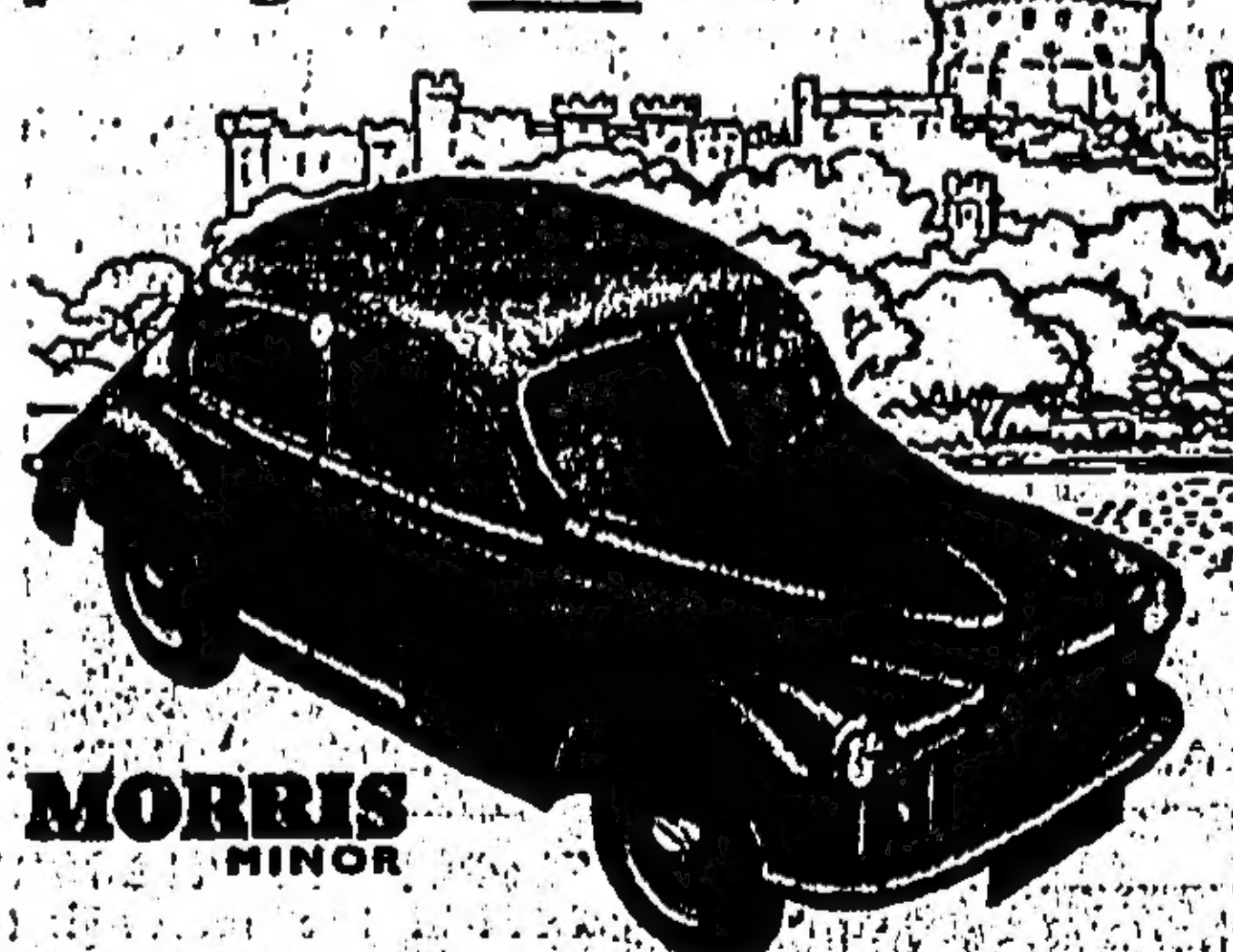
The normal Tuesday meeting of the Cabinet will be held as usual today at 10, Downing Street. Afterwards, Sir Winston Churchill will, if necessary, call other meetings to discuss the dispute.—Reuter.

Lift Crashes: 2 Women Killed

Kansas City, Dec. 14.

The authorities said at least two women were killed and 11 others injured when a lift fell from the fifth floor to the basement of a garment factory here late today.—United Press.

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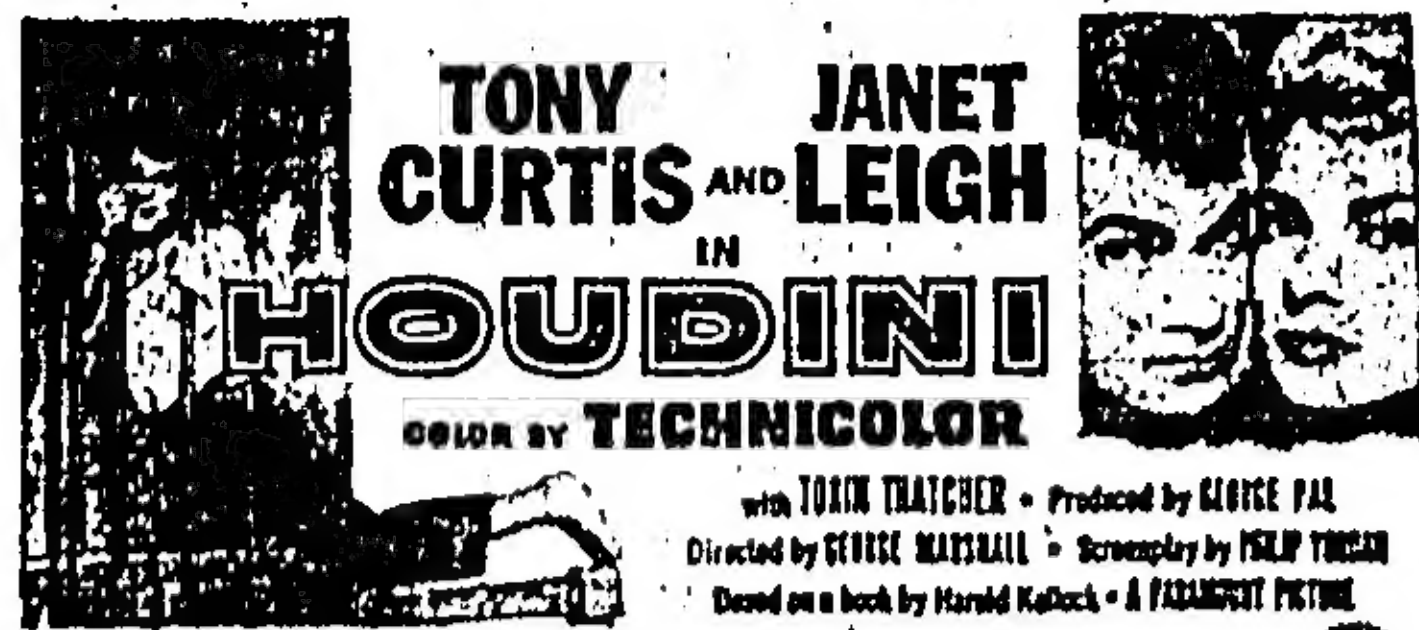
No doubt some earnest persons have from time to time devised a formula for the measurement of thirst. They might, for instance, multiply the temperature (in degrees centigrade) by the humidity (in degrees of discomfort) and divide by the energy expended in the game in progress or in strokes per hole, goals per chukka, runs per over. But whatever the variables involved, the answer remains constant. Take a long glass of Rose's Lime Juice with a couple of ice-cubes floating; hold it to the light and look over its pale translucent greenness, rest it gently until the ice-cubes tinkle. Then put yourself outside it.



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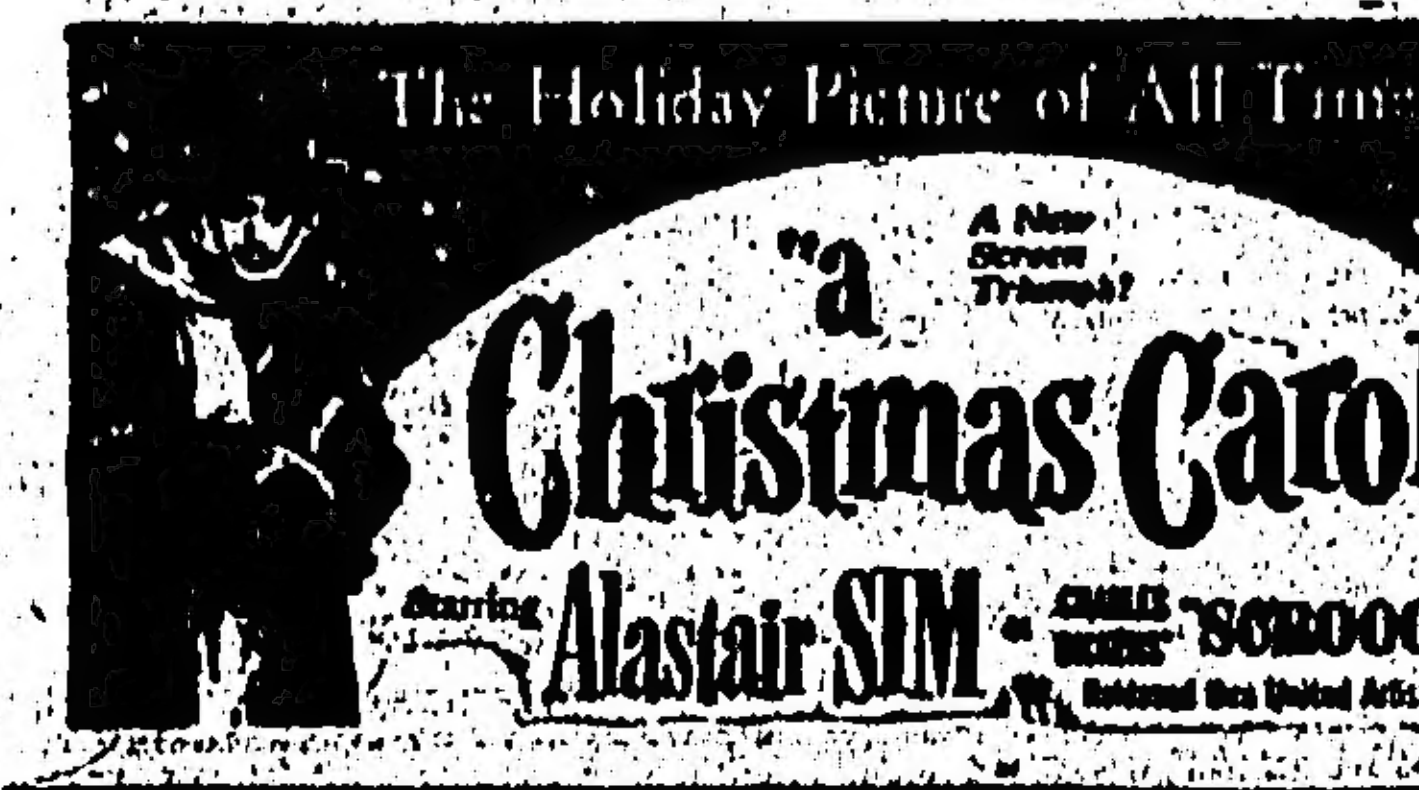
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IRAQ DEVELOPMENT

Atomic Weapons Nearly Standard In US Services

Washington, Dec. 14. The Chairman of the American Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Arthur Radford, said here today that atomic arms had virtually reached the stage of being standard weapons in America's land, sea and air forces.

Addressing the National Press Club, America's top military man said that the U.S. would maintain its power at a level above that of any other country in the world and that President Eisenhower, Secretary of Defence Charles Wilson and the Chiefs of Staff concurred in this principle.

Admiral Radford said that the task of the top American military command was to be prepared in case of another world war to launch powerful counter-attacks and also for military action of smaller scope short of total war.

However, if humanity showed itself to be equal to its responsibilities atomic power could be a great beneficial force, said Admiral Radford.

Otherwise, "we would become a world of giants from a nuclear point of view and a world of children from a moral point of view."

He indicated that American defence thinking was based on a long-term plan extending to 1957 which sought to reconcile her national and international obligations with the necessity of maintaining a stable domestic economy.

He said that President Eisenhower's speech before the United Nations last week proposing an "atom bank" was magnificent.

"The destructive power presently and prospectively available to each branch of our armed forces dwarfs that ever experienced in the history of warfare. I am not being an alarmist in this—I am simply stating facts. These facts simply make it all the more urgent that we deter aggression now before they happen."

Admiral Radford said—France-Press.

Suspended Suez Canal Talks

Britain Asks For Resumption

Cairo, Dec. 14.

The British Charge d'Affaires in Cairo, Mr Robert Hankey, told President Mohamed Naguib tonight that Britain wanted to resume as soon as possible the Anglo-Egyptian talks on the Suez Canal zone, suspended last Oct. 21.

Mr Hankey had asked for an audience with General Naguib to present to him the new chief military adviser to the British delegation to the negotiations, Major-General Edward Benson.

Mr Benson replaced Gen. Sir Brian Robertson, now chairman of the Transport Commission in Britain, who took a major part in all Anglo-Egyptian talks since they first began last April.

Mr Hankey was also taking his leave of Gen. Naguib. He is returning to London on Wednesday.

During the meeting Mr Hankey told President Naguib that resumption of the Anglo-Egyptian talks would be desirable in order to create a favourable atmosphere and to stop Press campaigns which were putting public opinion against any eventual agreement.

FRESH CAMPAIGN
An authoritative Egyptian source said that President Naguib in reply told Mr Hankey that the Press campaigns he had been complaining about had been started by British newspapers after the results of the recent Sudanese elections, won by a party favouring union with Egypt.

Mr Hankey, formerly British Minister in Budapest, had been in Cairo in place of Sir Ralph Stevenson, the British Ambassador. Sir Ralph is due back in Cairo at the end of this week and will immediately resume his duties. The move by Mr Hankey and Gen. Benson could not be interpreted as a formal proposal for resumption of the talks, a British Embassy spokesman said here tonight—France-Press.

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Flood Protection Barriers And New Factories

Bagdad, Dec. 14. Construction of new roads and railways, a new port, flood protection barriers and new factories has been authorised by the Iraq Development Board as part of an ambitious five year programme.

The State Railways expansion programme, which was prepared by the Department's British and Iraqi engineers early this year, is to be put into operation immediately.

The programme, for which the Development Board originally allocated 15,000,000 Iraq dinars (one Iraq dinar equals 21 sterling) to be spent over a period of five years, had to be postponed earlier when the Board decided to cancel its main programme approved by the former Cabinet, and draw up new plans.

As the State Railways was unable to delay its scheme the Development Board has decided to grant a loan of 2,500,000 Iraq dinars to be deducted from the main grant of 15,000,000 Iraq dinars to enable the railways to carry out their plans without delay.

The State Railway schemes include building new railway lines, buying new diesel engines and rolling stock and the provision of air conditioned cars.

The small village of Um-Qasr, south of Basra on the Persian Gulf, may, in years to come, become Iraq's second port. It is needed to relieve the heavy traffic which at present keeps Basra port busy 24 hours a day.

A scheme for the development of Um-Qasr which had been prepared by the port's engineers during World War II, was shelved owing to difficulties, mainly financial.

The Ministry of Communications and Works last year brought from the Development Board funds to start work on the project. Nothing was decided at that time owing to changes being made in the Board and the creation of the Ministry of Development.

Work was also deferred while a new five-year programme was discussed.

MR NIXON RETURNS HOME

Washington, Dec. 14. Mr Richard Nixon told newspapermen upon his arrival here today that if the Communists rejected President Eisenhower's atomic proposal they would suffer an enormous loss of prestige with the peoples of Asia.

Spraking after he left the plane which brought him back from a 10-week tour of Asia and the Middle East, the U.S. Vice-President said he had found in all the countries he visited a desperate need for peace, particularly those countries which recently acquired independence and which suffered during the last war.

The Vice-President said that he would proceed directly to the White House to report to President Eisenhower on his trip.

Mr Nixon told the press he had been impressed by the feelings of friendship shown towards the United States by the peoples he had visited—despite Communist efforts to kill that friendship. He said there was more a similarity of ideals in the countries he had visited than there were differences of opinion.

The Vice-President stated that the officials he had met in those countries were inspired by the same ideals as those which had inspired the Americans—France-Press.

Tokyo, Dec. 14. The per capita productivity of coal miners in Japan has doubled in eight years, a recent survey by International Trade and Industry revealed, according to Japanese Press reports today.

The survey showed that an average Japanese coal miner, who mined 5.6 tons of coal a month in 1945, mined 10.3 tons in September this year.

The highest productivity ever achieved by Japanese miners was 16.8 tons a month in 1932—Reuter.

The Development Board has also made the following grants to assist the government departments in carrying out their programmes:

The Irrigation Department will receive 550,000 Iraq dinars, to be spent on departmental projects and on strengthening the bunds in Bagdad and various other parts of the country against floods.

The Board agreed to the building of 410 houses for

labourers in the southern suburb of Bagdad and 20 others in the northern suburb.

The sum of 33,000 Iraq dinars is provided to build a complete laboratory for the Ministry of Agriculture; 14,000 Iraq dinars for building a hospital in Basrah in the South of Iraq; 12,700 Iraq dinars for clearing one between Hillah and Dyrwanah and the other between Bagdad and Samarra.

The Development Board will shortly ask for tenders for building a new textile factory and two cement factories.

The textile factory, which will be built at Mosul, in the north of Iraq, will turn out 20,000,000 yards of woven goods a year. It will be equipped with 20,000 spindles and 500 or 600 looms.

The two cement factories, at Kirkuk and Mosul, will have a capacity of 30 tons a day each.

For a third project, a sugar refinery, the Board has already decided to seek a Belgian expert's advice, working with Belgian consulting engineers—Reuter.

Soviets Discuss Land-Lease

Washington, Dec. 14. The Soviet Ambassador to Washington, Mr Georgi Zarubin, today called on the U.S. Under-Secretary of State, Mr Walter Bedell Smith, at the State Department.

After the visit, which lasted 20 minutes, Mr Zarubin was asked by a reporter whether he had discussed the land-lease issue with Mr Bedell Smith. He replied that he had. That was all he said—France-Press.

Question Of German Rearmament

London, Dec. 14. Mr Selwyn Lloyd, Minister of State, was asked in the House of Commons today if the British Government would consent to any German rearmament outside the proposed six-nation European Defence Community.

He told Mr Eric Fletcher, Labour: "All I can say is that before any amendment to the (West German) basic law can become effective providing for any form of German rearmament, the British Government's consent through the High Commissioner is required."

Earlier Mr Lloyd said in reply to another Labour member, Mr Julian Snow, that preliminary consultations were taking place between the Allied High Commissioner and the German Federal Government on an amendment to the law to allow a possible basic German contribution to the EDC.

Mr Snow had referred to reported proposals by the West German Government to submit amendments to the Bundestag (lower house) authorising the raising of armed forces outside the EDC—Reuter.

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The Rudderless Liner PASSENGERS ENJOY ATLANTIC-SHAKEN XMAS COCKTAILS

Water Running Short

By JOHN ARNOEY *

Aboard The Stavangerfjord in the North Atlantic, Dec. 14. Unworried passengers in dirty collars substituted meat for potatoes today and jubilantly toasted this rudderless vessel's hardy Norwegian skipper with "Christmas cocktails thoroughly shaken by the North Atlantic," as he held the ship on course for Norway, steering only with its engines.

This gleaming vessel, carrying nearly 1,000 persons, most of the 644 passengers Norwegian-Americans returning to the old country for Christmas, plunged through heavy seas behind the escorting British tug Turmoil, whose glinting running lights kept it on course throughout the blustering night.

"Christmas cocktails," billed in the bars as "thoroughly shaken by the North Atlantic," replaced drinking water for many of the passengers. Platoons of waiters also shuttled between lounge and engine room carrying refreshment for grimy engineers whose labours in manipulating power alternately to the ship's two propellers are enabling the master to steer.

Dirty collars became the fashion when Captain Olaf Bjornstad posted notices warning that drinking water was scarce and could not be used for washing.

The passengers have begun betting with the 300-man crew on the day the ship will reach Oslo, at least four sea-tossed days away.

Tasty cakes and cookies have begun to replace bread. "Eat from the Stavangerfjord's well-stocked deep freeze is taking the place of potatoes which seen to be running short."

"The journey has been far easier than expected when we lost the rudder," Bjornstad said in an interview. "Under favourable conditions we should be able to reach Oslo on Thursday."

The Stavangerfjord plunged forward in screaming winds at a steady 12 knots in the wake of the Turmoil, the tug that stood by while the gallant Flying Enterprise sank off Britain almost exactly two years ago.

IN SAFE HANDS
The Turmoil's skipper, Dan Parks, radioed London this morning that the Stavangerfjord's passengers and crew were in "safe hands" and on course in a blow from the north-west a force of six—one point below full gale.

"There was never any real danger to the ship," Bjornstad said.

The epic crossing began last Tuesday when the Stavangerfjord lost the rudder in hurricane winds so strong they broke the vessel's registering device twice.

A virtual absence of sea-sickness among the unworried non-seafaring passengers has led

to the quip that the best cure for the illness is the loss of a rudder in a hurricane.

The standing bar joke is that the coking North Atlantic adds "something" to an aperitif no bartender in the world could make.

Heaviest betting on the Oslo arrival seems to ride with the captain's prediction—Thursday.

But a few "pessimists," perhaps ill-tempered because of the shortage of drinking water and consequent alcoholic substitutions to quench mid-Atlantic thirsts, grumpily pronounced this morning it may take until Friday.

SOLID DOCK
One lone passenger gasped "never" when asked when he thought the pitching vessel would nudge into a solid dock.

The burly captain recounted the journey in the terse language of seafaring men.

"As for the weather on the day the mishap occurred," Bjornstad said, "the gale stood at 40 to 45 metres per second which is a full hurricane. Two times the gale broke when the wind grew stronger than 50 metres."

He continued, standing firm on the pitching deck:

"The first day we lost the rudder, we thought for some time we would have to go back to Newfoundland. The passengers would then have been able to catch the Oslofjord or to fly to Europe from Gander. We set course westwards, but as the weather gradually abated, we got word from Norway that the Lyngenfjord, also from our company, would meet us in mid-ocean, we turned back east again."

"Lyngenfjord made one attempt to take us in tow. But the tow broke and she decided only to escort us. It was clear we did not need assistance

and the Lyngenfjord thus set course towards her own destination, the port of New York. We got reports this morning that the Lyngenfjord was coming to meet us."

"We hope to make between 150 and 200 nautical miles a day. Yesterday we made 300 miles."

"We have, under the present circumstances, declined an offer by the British tugboat Turmoil to take us into tow," Bjornstad said. "We actually are saving time by going on our own power."

Turmoil went ahead of us, and we sailed directly by her lights. That is a great help."

NO EFFORT
"We let one propeller go at full speed and are steering with the other, letting it now run forwards, now backwards. The engine people are extremely busy, but it is no special effort for the engines."

"However, as the saying goes, we shouldn't sell the hide before the bear is killed. The prospects for a happy ending of the trip, however, are as good as any time."—United Press.

* John Arnoey, staff correspondent for the Norwegian newspaper Stavanger Aftenblad, is one of the persons aboard the rudderless ocean liner Stavangerfjord making a Christmas voyage from New York to Oslo.

MOSCOW, Dec. 14.
The Georgian newspaper, Zaria Vostoka, today reported that Belan Tskheidze had been appointed Finance Minister of the Soviet republic in place of Kondatishvili.

The paper said that the latter retained his post as Deputy Premier of the Georgian cabinet.

FRANCE-PRESS.

Operation At 102: Medical Record?



At the ripe old age of 102 and sitting up in bed just a day after her operation is hale and hearty Mrs. Mary Jane Start, at the St. Mary's Wing of the Whitthart Hospital, Highbury, London. The operation is believed to have made medical history by being the first to be performed on a woman of that age. It was to insert a pin into a broken thighbone which Mrs. Start sustained when she fell while trying to pick up her stick in a Highbury rest home for aged people where she was living. Both at the home and the hospital they are all very proud of Mrs. Start who now has a good chance of being able to walk again. In picture with her are Nursing Sister Murphy, left, and Nurse K. McDermott, right. — Reuterphoto.

RUSSIAN TALKS CONCERN ALL NATO MEMBERS

Paris, Dec. 14.

M. Georges Bidault, the French Foreign Minister, made it clear in his opening address to the 14-nation Atlantic Pact Council session here today that in his view the talks with the Russians concerned all 14 members of the Atlantic Pact and not only the Big Three.

M. Bidault, Chairman of the Council, said the Pact demanded more than co-operation and mutual guarantees declaring that "a defence policy includes positive, and determined initiatives for peace."

M. Bidault suggested that, while NATO must maintain its defensive system, it should support and exploit every opportunity to reach agreement with the Soviet Union even of a limited nature.

He appealed for a more dynamic NATO policy by which everything possible would be done to achieve an efficient yield on the limited resources the member nations had available for arms spending.

This meant continuous improvement in co-ordination and standardisation to avoid waste. He said he would take this up again later with the Council.

M. Bidault also proposed that the 14 Foreign Ministers should meet separately from their defence and finance colleagues to discuss purely political matters. But the Council decided against splitting up at least for the time being.

The Council early disposed of the first item on its agenda when it approved the progress report presented by its Secretary-General, Lord Ismay.

"INFRASTRUCTURE"
The report, which covers the activities of the organisation since its last meeting in April this year, dealt with "infrastructure"—the construction of new airfields and other military installations—civil defence and administrative matters.

During the debate on the report, the Italian Premier, Signor Giuseppe Pella, urged that Italy's surplus labour must be allowed to emigrate to help to solve the country's economic problems.

M. Bidault submitted a proposal to extend NATO's information activities.

The Norwegian Foreign Minister, Mr. Halvdan Lange, supported Lord Ismay's suggestion that groups of Parliamentarians should be encouraged to visit NATO and SHAPE to see what was being done.

Mr. Anthony Eden, the British Foreign Secretary, told the Council that NATO had now reached the stage of military preparedness where it was a powerful deterrent to Communist aggression.

The task facing the Alliance now was to consolidate and maintain its forces.

BIG ISSUES
These were big issues to which the Allies must give urgent attention on the broad lines already set, Mr. Eden said.

First they must keep in being over a period of years forces which with atomic weapons in support would provide an effective deterrent to attack and which they could develop and maintain with the most modern equipment.

Efforts must be made to improve the quality of the forces so that, in the event of attack

Spain Arms Ban Lifted

London, Dec. 14.

The Minister of State, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, said in the House of Commons today that Britain had decided to relax restrictions on the export of arms to Spain.

Mr. Lloyd stated that the embargo would be relaxed, "to some extent."

His statement came in reply to a question from a Conservative Member of Parliament, Mr. Gilbert Lonsdale.—United Press.

AUTHOR DIES

London, Dec. 14.

Mr. Michael Ardizzone, author and journalist, died in the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases here last night after a long illness. He was 43.

Before the war he was Assistant Editor of the Malay Mail and travelled extensively in the Far East.

He was a prisoner of war in Italy from June 1942, and an unsuccessful escape attempt gave him material for "Hear Not My Steps," a book he sold to a publisher fellow prisoner while still in captivity.

His books since the war included: "A Nation Is Born"—a plea for Malayan union and "The Mistaken Land," a critical survey of South Africa.

Mr. Ardizzone worked on three South African newspapers from 1947 and on returning to England was with Reuters before joining PA-Reuters Feathers in 1952.

He was a younger brother of Edward Ardizzone, the war artist.

He leaves a widow and two girls, one a stepdaughter. — Reuter.

INSECURE JAPANESE ECONOMY

London, Dec. 14.

Although it is rather generally expected that the current Anglo-Japanese talks might produce situations eventually wherein British Dominions and colonial imports from Japan will in some way recover from the present drastically reduced level of trade overseas it is still doubtful whether such changes could remedy the insecure foundation upon which Japanese economy is based and which is the real cause of Japanese economic difficulties.

While Japan's intention to expand trade with Asiatic countries is regarded as more natural and necessary, observers point out the extensive changes in the shape of Japanese economy would constitute eventual difficulties also in this field.

Observers pointed out that with American help the Japanese made great strides since the war, in re-establishing themselves as an industrial nation, although sources of cheap food and raw materials are now outside Japan's orbit.

On the other hand former markets on the Chinese mainland had been lost.

Japan's close contact with the United States had been giving an invisible income whereby Japan temporarily is able to redress the balance.

Observers said Japan's trade relations with China, although regarded as evidence of a conciliatory attitude towards America, are actually disrupting the basis of economy resulting in drastic changes in the foreign trade pattern.

NEW STAND
Thus observers point out that Japan would need a new stand especially with regard to her political attitude towards Southeast Asia as a whole, from where Japan could expand her legitimate trade.

London surveys pointed out however the first fact that any improvement in Japan's present disappointing trade with Southeast Asia must be preceded by enormous figures on outstanding reparation bills with the main interest being centred on whether Japan could succeed in getting the consent from Southeast Asian countries to send consumer goods but to send capital goods as reparation.

Meanwhile Japan's price problem is also attended with constant rumour regarding a devaluation of the yen.

Although devaluation is regarded as absurd at the present stage there is the free expectation that it would become advantageous to Japan when procurement spending loses importance in Japan's economy and development of export trade with the sterling area as well as Southeast Asia becomes the main need.—China Mail Special.

LOST DEER
Scheneectady, N.Y., Dec. 14.
The deer season apparently is not over for Jack Goldstein.

He told the Police that someone had stolen a 250-lb. cement deer and two iron deer weighing 25 lbs. each from his front lawn.—United Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
1 Request (7).
4 Exhaust (7).
6 Skin (4).
9 Glass substitute (4).
11 Prescribed food (4).
12 Arrive (4).
14 Arbitrator (7).
17 Got up (6).
19 Ants (5).
22 Have the upper hand (7).
24 Recount (4).
27 Present (4).
28 Botches (7).
30 Unit of length (4).
31 Comfort (4).
- DOWN**
2 Woof (6).
3 Black suit is cards (6).
5 Submit to (6).
7 Delighted (6).
8 Thrust (5).
10 Subject (6).
13 Breakwater (4).
15 Mature (4).
16 Noblemen (4).
18 Summary (6).
20 Girth (6).
21 Chooses (6).
23 Waken (6).
25 Indeterminate (5).
26 Catalogues (5).
29 Comfort (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD—Across: 1 Carous, 3 Chaff, 8 Cliche, 9 Social, 10 Acid, 11 Burst, 12 Edna, 13 Sifts, 16 Medical, 18 Eludes, 20 Codes, 22 Snap, 23 Steer, 25 Valse, 26 Tureen, 27 Erred, 28 Stuns, 29 Sonnet, Down: 1 Cosmetics, 2 Recanted, 3 Scab, 4 Saturated, 5 Chimes, 6 Hells, 7 Flint, 8 Foundations, 10 Suspends, 16 Musters, 17 Dances, 19 Lesson, 21 Exile, 24 Rude.

No West German Observer At Four-Power Talks

Bonn, Dec. 14.

Declaring categorically that West Germany would not send an observer to the four-power foreign ministers' talks in Berlin, Dr. Konrad Adenauer, the West German Chancellor, today accused the Soviet Union of constantly attempting to prevent the integration of Germany.

Dr. Adenauer added that West Germany had no interest in sending an observer to the conference because this would tend to a request by the Soviets for an observer from the eastern zone—signifying recognition by the Western powers of the East German government. He declared that any observers from the two zones would argue endlessly from opposite points of view to the detriment of the progress of the talks.

The Chancellor said that French fears of being swept into a war through the European Defence Community which would restore German unity were unfounded. He added that nobody in Germany, not even in the Soviet zone, entertained such an idea.

WANT PEACE
Dr. Adenauer declared that the German people wanted only peace and freedom and not needless military adventures.

Once Germany had healed her war wounds, he said, she would be in a position to dominate her partners.

It was not possible, the Chancellor stated, to neutralise

people numbering more than 50 million against their wish or to control them and forbid them arming themselves in their defence. It was also impossible to deprive a conquered people permanently of their right or to limit those rights. That had never been done throughout the history of the world, said Dr. Adenauer.

ONLY POWER
Britain and the United States, the West German Chancellor continued, were not disposed permanently to maintain their troops in Europe for the purpose of controlling a neutralised Germany.

On the other hand, the Soviet Union was the only power which could and which had the wish to exercise such a control. For that reason, he continued, the neutralisation and re-arming of Germany could not be discussed in the course of the four-power talks.

Dr. Adenauer expressed the belief that the four-power conference should not be held in mid-January while a new Czech government was in the process of being formed after the Presidential election. — France-Press.

Coal And Steel Loan In US

Luxembourg, Dec. 14.

The High Authority, the governing body of the European coal and steel community, hopes to start negotiations for a loan in the United States before the end of this year. It was announced here tonight.

M. Leon Daum, French member of the High Authority, told a one-day meeting of the Community's Parliament here that the loan would be guaranteed by the proceeds of the tax levied on coal and steel production within the pool.

The exact figure of the loan has not yet been announced.

A source said here that the Consultative Committee of 51 producers, consumers and workers had decided that scrap prices in the pool should be cut, though it had not determined the exact figure. — China Mail Special.

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"TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY" . . . CHAPTER 27

GERMAN CONTACTS FOR SURRENDER

By Sir Winston Churchill

In February, 1945, Gen. Karl Wolff, the S.S. Commander in Italy, made contact through Italian intermediaries with the American Intelligence Service in Switzerland. On March 8 he himself appeared in Zurich and was told that there could be no question of negotiations — only unconditional surrender.

A week later a second exploratory meeting with Wolff in Zurich was attended by the British and American Chiefs of Staff from Italy in disguise.

It was not until once that the Soviet Government might be suspicious of a separate military surrender in the South, which would enable our armies to advance against reduced opposition as far as Vienna and beyond, or indeed towards the Elbe or Berlin. Moreover, as all our fronts round Germany were part of the whole Allied war, the Russians would naturally be affected by anything done on any one of them.

If any contacts were made with the enemy, formal or informal, they ought to be told in good time. This rule was scrupulously followed.

There was at no stage any question of concealing anything from the Russians. The Allied representatives then in Switzerland even explored ways of smuggling a Russian officer in to join them if the Soviet Government wished to send someone.

One March 21 Mr. Eden accordingly instructed our Ambassador in Moscow to inform the Soviet Government of these happenings. This he did. Next day Molotov handed him a written reply, which contained the following expressions:

"In Berlin for two weeks, behind the backs of the Soviet Union which is bearing the brunt of the war against Germany, negotiations have been going on between the representatives of the German military command and the English and American commands on the other."

Sir Archibald Clark Kerr (the British Ambassador) of course explained that the Soviet had misunderstood what had occurred, and that these "negotiations" were no more than an attempt to test the credentials and authority of Gen. Wolff. Molotov's comment was blunt and insulting. "In this instance," he wrote, "the Soviet Government sees not a misunderstanding, but something worse."

In the face of so astonishing a charge it seemed to me that silence was better than a contest in abuse.

At the same time it was necessary to warn our military commanders in the West. I accordingly showed Molotov's insulting letter both to Montgomery and to Eisenhower, with whom I at this

time was watching the crossing of the Rhine. Gen. Eisenhower was much upset, and seemed deeply stirred with anger at what he considered most unjust and unfounded charges about our good faith. He said that as a military commander he would accept the unconditional surrender of any body of enemy troops on his front, from a company to the entire army; that he regarded this as a purely military matter, and that he had full authority to accept such a surrender without asking anybody's opinion.

If, however, political matters arose, he would immediately consult the Governments. He feared that if the Russians were brought into a question of the surrender of Kesselring's forces, what could be expected of him in an hour might be prolonged for three or four weeks, with heavy losses to our troops.

He made it clear that he would insist upon all the troops under the officer making the surrender laying down their arms and standing still until they received further orders, so that there would be no possibility of their being transferred across Germany to withstand the Russians. He would also at the same time advance through these surrendered troops as fast as possible to the East.

I thought myself that these matters should be left to his discretion, and that the Governments should only intervene if any political issues arose. I did not see why we should break our hearts if, owing to mass surrender in the West, we got to the Elbe, or even further before Stalin's Jack Colville (the Prime Minister's private secretary) reminds me that I said to him that evening: "I hardly like to consider dismembering Germany until my doubts about Russian intentions have been cleared away."

I MINUTED to Mr. Eden on March 25: Further reflection convinces me we should send no answer to the insulting letter from Molotov. I presume you have already sent a copy of it to the State Department, pointing out, in no spirit of complaint, that it was they who particularly wished that the Russians should not come to Switzerland — and that Alexander should deal with the matter on a purely military basis. I am sure the right thing now is to get absolutely in line with the United States, which should be easy, and meanwhile let Molotov and his master wait.

And later on the same day: We should ask the United States where they stand and whether they will now agree to a telegram from the President and me to Stalin, and, secondly, whether this should, as you say, cover other topics — e.g., access to Poland, treatment of our prisoners, imputations against our good faith about Berne, Rumania, &c.

Molotov's refusal to go to San Francisco is no doubt the expression of the Soviet displeasure. We should put it to Roosevelt that the whole question of going to San

Francisco in these conditions is called in question, and that quite definite forming up by Britain and the United States against breach of Yalta understandings now is necessary if such a meeting is to have any value. . . . Should military negotiations break out on this [Eisenhower's] front, which is not a secondary front like Italy, it will not be possible to keep the military and the political aspects separate. In my view the Russians should be in from the start, and we should carry on in accordance with our duty, our obvious advantage, and our plain right. . . .

My wife was at this time about to visit the Soviet Union on behalf of her "Aid to Russia" fund, but so intense was the Russian suspicion about the conversations at Berne that I even considered postponing her departure. In fact she went, and was received with the utmost goodwill.

ON April 5 I received from the President the startling text of his interchange with Stalin. These were the telegrams: Marshal Stalin to President Roosevelt: 3 Apr 45

I have received your message on the question of negotiations in Berne. You are absolutely right that, in connection with the affairs regarding negotiations of the Anglo-American command with the German command somewhere in Berne or some other place, "has developed an atmosphere of fear and distrust deserving regrets."

You insist that there have been no negotiations yet. It may be assumed that you have not yet been fully informed.

As regards my military colleagues, they, on the basis of data which they have on hand, do not have any doubts that the negotiations have taken place, and that they have ended in an agreement with the Germans, on the basis of which the German command on the Western Front, Marshal Kesselring, has agreed to open the front and permit the Anglo-American troops to advance to the east, and the Anglo-Americans have promised in return to ease for the Germans the peace terms.

I think that my colleagues are close to the truth. Otherwise, one could not have understood the fact that the Anglo-Americans have refused to admit to Berne representatives of the Soviet command for participation in the negotiations with the Germans.

I also cannot understand the silence of the British who have allowed you to correspond with me on this unpleasant matter and they themselves remain silent, although it is known that the initiative in this whole affair belongs to the British.

I understand that there are certain advantages for the Anglo-American troops as a result of these separate negotiations in Berne or some other place, since the Anglo-American troops get the possibility to advance into the

heart of Germany almost without resistance on the part of the Germans, but why was it necessary to conceal this from the Russians and why were your allies, the Russians, not notified?

As a result of this, at the present moment the Germans on the Western Front in fact have ceased the war against England and the United States. At the same time the Germans continue the war with Russia, the Ally of England and the United States. . . .

THIS accusation angered the President deeply. His strength did not allow him to draft his own reply. Gen. Marshall framed the following answer, with Roosevelt's approval. It certainly did not lack vigour. President Roosevelt to Marshal Stalin: 5 Apr 45

I have received your message of April 3 containing an allegation that arrangements which were made between Field-Marshal Alexander and Kesselring at Berne, permitted the Anglo-American troops to advance to the east, and the Anglo-Americans promised in return to ease for the Germans the peace terms.

In my previous messages to you in regard to the attempts made in Berne to arrange a conference to discuss a surrender of the German Army in Italy I have told you that (i) no negotiations were held in Berne; (ii) that the meeting had no political implications whatever; (iii) that in any surrender of the enemy army in Italy there could be no violation of our agreed principle of unconditional surrender; (iv) that Soviet officers would be welcomed at any meeting that might be arranged to discuss surrender.

For the advantage of our common cause, we have given excellent promise of an early success in a disintegration of the German armies. I must continue to assume that you have the same high confidence in my truthfulness and reliability that I have always had in yours. . . .

With a confidence in your belief in my personal reliability and in my determination to bring about, together with you, an unconditional surrender of the Nazis, it is astonishing that a belief seems to have reached the Soviet Government that I have entered into an agreement with the enemy without first obtaining your full agreement.

Finally I would say this: it would be one of the great tragedies of history if at the very moment of the victory now within our grasp such distrust, such lack of faith, should prejudice the entire undertaking after the colossal losses of life, material and treasure involved.

Frankly, I cannot avoid a feeling of bitter resentment toward your informers, whoever they are, for such vile misrepresentations of my actions or those of my trusted subordinates.

I WAS deeply struck by this last sentence, which, I print verbatim, is a most serious matter. Mr. Roosevelt did not draft the whole message, he might well have added this final stroke himself. It looked like an addition or summing-up, and it seemed like Roosevelt himself in anger.

[The Prime Minister associated himself with the President's reply, and himself sent Stalin a letter, of which some passages follow.]

The sole and only business mentioned or referred to in any way in Switzerland was to test the credentials of the German emissary and try to arrange a meeting between a nominee of Kesselring's with Field-Marshal Alexander at his headquarters or some convenient point in Northern Italy.

There were no negotiations in Switzerland — even for a military surrender of Kesselring's army. Still less did any political military plot, as alleged in your telegram to the President, enter into our thoughts, which are not, as suggested, of so dishonourable a character.

Your representatives were immediately invited to the meeting in an attempt to arrange it in Italy. Had it taken place and had your representatives come, they could have heard every word that passed.

We consider that Field-Marshal Alexander has full right to accept the surrender of the German army of 25 divisions on his front in Italy, and to discuss such matters with German envoys who have the power to settle the terms of capitulation. Nevertheless we took especial care to invite your representatives to this purely military discussion at his headquarters, should it take place.

In fact, however, nothing resulted from any contacts in Switzerland. Our Officers returned from Switzerland without having succeeded in fixing a rendezvous in Italy for Kesselring's emissaries to come to. Of all this the Soviet Government have been fully informed step by step by Field-Marshal Alexander or by Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, as well as through United States channels. . . .

It is so difficult between us was the German intention it has certainly for the moment been successful.

AFTER quoting some of the more scolding phrases from Molotov's letter I continued:

In the interests of Anglo-Russian relations His Majesty's Government decided not to make any reply to this most wounding and unfounded charge, but to ignore it. This is the reason for what you call in your message to the President "the silence of the British."

We thought it better to keep silent than to respond to such a message as was sent by M. Molotov, but you may be sure that we were astonished by it and affronted that M. Molotov should impute such conduct to us. This, however, in no way affected our instructions to Field-Marshal Alexander to keep you fully informed.

Neither is it true that the initiative in this matter came, as you state to the President, solely from the British. In fact, the information given to Field-Marshal Alexander that the German Gen. Wolff wished to make a contact in Switzerland was brought to him by an American agency. . . .

On April 10 Stalin replied to the President's reproach. In my message of April 3 the point at issue is not that of integrity and trustworthiness. I have never doubted your integrity and trustworthiness, or Mr. Churchill's either. My point is that in the course of our correspondence it has become evident that our views differ on the point as to what is admissible and what is inadmissible as between one ally and another.

We Russians think that in the present situation on the fronts, when the enemy is faced with inevitable annihilation, if the representatives of any one ally ever meet the Germans to discuss surrender, representatives of another ally should be afforded an opportunity of participating in such a meeting. . . .

In any case, this is absolutely essential if the ally in question asks for such participation. The Americans and British, however, think differently and regard the Russian standpoint as wrong. . . .

HE also sent a copy of his telegram to me, together with the following personal message: "Neither I nor Molotov had any intention of 'blackening' anyone. It is not a matter of wanting to 'blacken' anyone, but of our having developed differing points of view as regards the rights and obligations of an ally. You will see from my message to the President that the Russian point of view on this question is the correct one, as it guarantees each ally's rights and deprives the enemy of any possibility of sowing discord between us."

My messages are personal and strictly confidential. This makes it possible to speak one's mind clearly and frankly. This is the advantage of confidential communications. If, however, you are going to regard every frank statement of mine as offensive, it will make this kind of communication very difficult. I can assure you that I had and have no intention of offending anyone.

I passed this to Roosevelt with the following comment: I have a feeling that this is about the best we are going to get out of them, and certainly it is as near as they can get to an apology. (Continued Tomorrow)

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STEPHEN POTTER writes about—

THE PITFALLS OF BEING POLITE

LORD PETER WIMSEY, the favourite character of Miss Dorothy Sayers, has never been a favourite character of mine. But there was one Wimsey characteristic which I have never been able to forget.

Lord Peter knew, of course — nobody better — that if he found himself in a lift with a lady, he ought to take his hat off. But he went further than that. On one occasion he chose a lift with a charwoman in it, for the sole purpose of taking his hat off for her, too!

Was this kind-heartedness, or was it what I call snobbish good manners — which means being a gentleman in order to show you are a gentleman? I am not sure. But the manners of Good Manners in a nutshell are, I think, the snob kind!

Instruction is by question and answer. Thus: Q: Should a gentleman stop a woman whom he knows in the street and engage her in conversation?

A: Yes, for a moment, if it is necessary for him to talk to her. That is the sort of statement that leaves us very nearly where we were. But I was definitely glad to know that "it is correct to return a smile to one whom you do not know, since well-bred people recognise each other." I shall go on doing this.

I have tried also "saying 'good morning' and 'good afternoon' to members of my family as if they were friends." But so far it hasn't worked very well. Certain unsuspected pitfalls have been revealed to me. For women, "it is incorrect to shake hands with a man unless she has heard a great deal about him." For anybody, it is "not correct to look directly into a restaurant or barber's shop when passing."

The perils of introduction make one marvel that anyone

ever gets to know anybody. If you say "Mrs Jones, meet my friend Mrs Brince," this would imply that Mrs Brince is your friend and Mrs Jones not.

As the book unfolds the world becomes more horrible. A world of demon parents. "What is a christening reception? 'Nothing more than a tea or cocktail party. It is not necessary to invite the clergyman.'"

But worst of all are the grownups in this Charles Adams world of the things we might do if we didn't read this book. If we didn't learn, by heart, that "it is wrong when saying 'thank you' to look in the opposite direction, wrong when asked out to dinner, to leave immediately after coffee; wrong to eat olives more than one at a time."

The author, in her highly individual English, admits that her word is not final. She allows a change at any time the situation demands it. Sometimes doing a thing in what seems a more sensible way is showing better judgment than following the regular accepted way.

The Ice-Girl thaws



Goodbye to coolness—Margaret Leighton and Laurence Harvey.

DAVID LEWIN'S Spotlight on a changing star Now Margaret Leighton joins the Cleopatras

There is a new name in the Cleopatra queue. After Vivien Leigh and Peggy Ashcroft comes to the most unusual casting of all, Margaret Leighton. Why unusual? Because for most of her screen career 31-year-old Margaret Leighton has seldom come into close contact with film passion. She is more often the icy blonde.

Now she has been invited to play Shakespeare's "Egyptian dish" (per, Shakespeare's description) in a new film version of "Antony and Cleopatra" to be shot next year in Italy. Antony would be Michael Redgrave, who is already established on the banks of a West End Nile in the play.

Maybe as a limbering-up exercise for the display of passion that "the 33rd unparalleled" must have, Miss Leighton is completing some love scenes in a new film, "The Good Die Young". Striking scenes they are too, acted with the film "Romeo" Laurence Harvey.

THE FEARS GO

"Quite a change from some of the refrigerated parts I have had in other pictures," said Margaret Leighton. "Until now I have been pretty inhibited in my film acting. I was afraid to move. Worried by everything. Sometimes I dropped around vicar's houses ('Holly and the Ivy') or generally stood about while others dashed ('Eustace Pimpernel') or I wore aprons and things. The nearest I came to showing any passionate appeal on the screen was being glued to Noel Coward for a few scenes in 'The Astonished Horses'."

"Now I have more confidence and have shaken off my hidden fears of filming. I can't wait to play Cleopatra. How they'll make me voluptuous, though, I don't know." We pondered the problem. But on screen anything is possible.

Anyway, consider those "Good Die Young" love scenes. "My!" said Miss Leighton. "I'm learning things in that picture the Old Vic never taught me!"

CALL FOR JOAN
THERE was to have been an all-American cast when the T.S. Eliot play "The Confidential Clerk" opened on Broadway. Now there will be one exception.

Henry Sherek, who presents the play, phoned from New York to Joan Greenwood and invited her to star with Claude Rains.

Miss Greenwood will fly to New York to act the Margaret Leighton part in the play.

USTINOV RIDES
PETER USTINOV has been learning to ride a horse for his part as the Prince Regent in the film "Beau Brummel."

Here is Mr Ustinov on the Equestrian Art: "Now I feel

that even a woman is a better friend to men than a horse. It is not that I have been thrown—except from a wooden horse in my tailor's when I went for a fitting. "At the riding-school my horse looks a trifle upset when I hoist my 13st. 10lb. into the saddle, but I console it with the thought that the Prince Regent himself was 17st. at my age (32). It is the first time I have played a character larger than I am."

"The horse and I get on reasonably together on the basis that whatever the horse does—well, afterwards I decide what was what I wanted to do in the first place. The operative word being 'afterwards'."

"The only trouble is I cannot conquer my fear of heights in the saddle—a fear I never had in the Alps."

"Now I'm just a little stiff, and take the rehearsals of my new play ('No Sign of the Dove')."

"My future? It is definitely not in Westerns."

COWARD QUOTE

Terence Rattigan, in New York, has been talking about the consolation offered to him by Noel Coward on the poor notices for the Rattigan play, "The Sleeping Prince."

"Don't worry," said Coward. "I not only muck up some of my plays by writing them, but I frequently muck them up by acting in them as well."

IN THE FAMILY

Disgraced by a beard and the smoke from a long cigar James Mason appears on screen introducing his own "family affair" film, which has been unheralded in the West End.

"Charmide" is its title, and Mr Mason can hang up the sign "All My Own Work." He produced, he stars, and he put up the money.

His wife Pamela wrote the script, and acts. Her first husband Roy Kellino directed. John Monaghan, friend of the family and sometime the Hanson baby sister, has a part. And the film company is named after the Mason daughter Portland.

The picture is an amusing, sometimes ironical, affair of three short stories. Mason, as the producer, is the link, and his wife looks at him (in the film) and says: "You're not a producer—you just look like an actor wearing a beard and smoking a cigar."

London Express Service.

Ladies' Interport Hockey Trial On Sunday

The following players have been selected to take part in the next Ladies' Interport Hockey trial on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 2.30 p.m. at the King's Park Pool Ground:

Probables: Lim, Read, Lambooy, Alonco, Ramsay, Ferreira, Hall, Hewson, Hale, Adams, Correa.

Possibles: Recco, Silva, Noronha, Jones, Rosa-Pereira, Wilson, Culverly, Werner, Richards, A. Oel, Y. Oel.

The Selection Committee feels that a number of 'good' hockey players have not presented themselves for selection. In order to give the Committee a further opportunity of selection it is requested that all who have taken part in trials and any others wishing to do so will be present at the King's Park Pool Ground on Sunday at 2.30 p.m.

The first games will be between the Probables (white) and Possibles (colours). Following this all other players who turn up will be given an opportunity to prove their worth. All players are asked to wear white and bring a coloured jumper.

The final composition of the Interport "A" XI will not be decided until after the final trial. The umpires on Sunday will be Mr. Y. Khan and Mr. Williams.



THE STYLE FIXES THE TREND

● Margaret Leighton wears a tent-style nightdress with a Victorian look—white cotton embroidered with velvet ribbon—in her film with Laurence Harvey. But the nightdress has a 1953 touch—that very-off-the-shoulder neckline to match Miss Leighton's new-style acting.

BEES IN BONNETS

By HENRY LONGHURST

Noting Robert Harris's theory that it would be to the benefit of all if the game of golf put the clock back instead of forward, I had the idea that this would be taken as the ravings of a dihard reactionary, unworthy of serious consideration.

Correspondence shows, however, that he is not alone in his madness. It seems that the same bee buzzes in a surprising number of bonnets and not undistinguished bonnets at this.

His theme, it may be remembered, was that golf had become rather too much of a good thing, and that in gradually adding the expensive trimmings—the sets of matched clubs at £50 a time, the cabin trunk bag plus £1 a day porters to lug them round, the supercharged balls and the yard courses, the manicured fairways and billiards table greens and the outside staff required to maintain them—we had lost sight of the original purpose of golf, namely to provide innocent fun in the process, ludicrous enough to outsiders, of hitting a little ball into a little hole in fewer strokes than the other fellow taking the rough with the smooth and getting round the various hazards of nature on the way.

LOOKING BACK

Looking back, on some 33 years of golf—in itself a sobering thought—I come to the conclusion that the more "primitive" it has been, the more I have enjoyed it.

No thrill ever, for instance, equal that of the unofficial three-hole course on the common at Yvelton on which I and the other two members of the club started our golfing careers, with a cut-down mangle and putter, while waiting for the grown ups to come down to breakfast.

We had no flags, no rules, no penalties, no score-cards, no caddies and no clubhouse. It was the "original" golf. Play the ball where it lies—if you can find it—and the fellow who holes out in the fewest strokes is the winner.

It is impossible to recapture this original thrill on the ultra-sophisticated courses of today, though it can still be done in some of the more outlandish parts of the world.

My mind wanders, for instance, to the province of Darfur in the Sudan, where the El Fasher course consisted of nine holes but only one flag, a huge red affair carried by a very small, very black boy, who waited till you were near enough to put and then doubled off through the camel thorn to plant it in the next hole.

Wally Thom KO's Danny Malloy

Leeds, Dec. 14. Wally Thom, the British welterweight champion, knocked out the Scottish welterweight champion, Danny Malloy, in the third round of a scheduled ten-round contest here tonight. The final punch was a hard left to the solar plexus, which almost sent Malloy out of the ring. He was a full minute coming round. —Reuter.

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HKFA COUNCIL MEETING

The Hongkong Football Association Council yesterday refused permission to 18 Chinese footballers and referees to leave for Formosa on Thursday for a 10-day visit.

At its monthly meeting last night at the Hongkong Football Club, HKFA Council rejected by a vote of 8-4 the application for permission to go to Formosa of the 18 Chinese players and referees, including Lee Yuk-tak and Ko Po-keung of South China.

Giants of the First Division will meet in the second round of the Challenge Shield (Senior) on January 9.

The draw is: Kitchener v South China; Army v Kowloon Motor Bus; Navy v Sing Tao; Kwong Wah v Eastern.

The draw for the second round of the Challenge Shield (Junior) is as follows:

Tamar v Solidors; RAF v CAA; SCAA v St Joseph's; Club v Little Sun Wan; Yord Police v Army; Navy v KMB or Kitchener; REME v Eastern; C & W v Western.

3rd round—Winner of (8) v winner of (1); (5) v (7); (2) v (6); (3) v (4).

INTERNATIONAL CUP
Great Britain and China will meet in the first match of the three-game International Cup series on Boxing Day at 3.30 p.m. at the HKFC stadium.

TURPIN-MITRI FIGHT MAY BE IN LONDON

London, Dec. 14. The European Middleweight Championship fight between British holder Randolph Turpin and Italy's Tiberio Mitri, who was nominated as challenger by the European Boxing Union, may be staged in London.

Promoter Jack Solomons said today: "Naturally I am interested in the fight and will try to get it before it comes to pursue officers." Mitri, who is 27, relinquished the European title in 1950 when he went to the United States. He has never fought Turpin but has twice fought Randolph's elder brother Dick. The first meeting in 1948 ended in a draw and Mitri won the second on points in the following year. —China Mail Special.

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"ANKING"	Singapore, Penang, Belawan & Palembang	10 a.m. 18th Dec.
ARRIVALS FROM		
"YUNNAN"	Shanghai	2 p.m. 16th Dec.
"SZECHUEN"	Keelung	7 a.m. 18th Dec.

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"CHANGTE"	Sydney & Melbourne	10th Dec.
ARRIVALS FROM		
"CHANGSHA"	Australia & Manila	10th Jan.

BLUE FUNNEL LINE

Scheduled Sailings to Europe via Aden & Port Said

	Sails	Arrives
"CYCLOPS"	Liverpool & Dublin	23rd Dec.
"AUTOLYCUS"	Rotterdam	24th Dec.
	Amsterdam, London, Antwerp & Hamburg	26th Dec.
"PERSEUS"	Marcellus, Liverpool & Glasgow	5th Jan.
"ANCHISES"	Liverpool & Glasgow	14th Jan.
"CLYTONEUS"	Liverpool & Dublin	22nd Jan.

Scheduled Sailings from Europe

	Sails	Arrives
G. "PERSEUS"	Liverpool	23rd Dec.
H. "ANCHISES"	do	25th Dec.
G. "CLYTONEUS"	do	28th Dec.
S. "ASTYANAX"	do	8th Jan. 1954
G. "PYRRHUS"	do	13th Jan. 1954
S. "EUMAEUS"	18th Dec.	25th Jan. 1954
G. "ASCANTUS"	24th Dec.	28th Jan. 1954

G. Loading Glasgow, before Liverpool, S. Loading Swansea, before Liverpool. Carriers' option to proceed via other ports to load & discharge cargo.

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"DONA AURORA"	do	17th Dec.	15th Jan.
"DONA ALICIA"	11th Dec.	2nd Jan.	31st Jan.
"BATAAN"	24th Dec.	15th Jan.	13th Feb.
"MUNCASTER CASTLE"	14th Jan.	5th Feb.	6th Mar.

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	Loads	Sails
"BENARES"	19th Dec.	20th Dec.
"AJAX"	4th Jan.	5th Jan.
"HAINAN"	19th Jan.	20th Jan.

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HK/Batavia/Singapore (DC-3)	11:00 a.m. Wed.	2:00 p.m. Thu.
HK/Hanoi/Haiphong (DC-3)	10:00 a.m. Wed.	2:45 p.m. Thu.
HK/Bangkok/Rangoon/Calcutta (DC-4)	11:00 a.m. Sat.	4:30 p.m. Sun.

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NOTICE

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED,

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WARNING

We beg to notify the public that only GENUINE HAIG "Dimple Scot" and "Gold Label" whiskies for sale in the Colony are imported by us, the undersigned, the Sole Distributors for Hongkong, and they bear the following label: "Gande, Price & Co., Ltd. Sole Distributors for Hongkong". Any "Dimple Scot" and "Gold Label" whiskies not bearing this label and sold in Hongkong were not imported by us.

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NOTICE

MARSHMAN HONGKONG CHINA, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the Twelfth Ordinary General Meeting of the Company will be held at the registered office of the Company, Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Building, Hongkong, on Monday, the twenty eighth day of December 1953 at 10.30 a.m. to receive the Directors Report and Statement of Accounts for the period 1st May 1952 to 30th April 1953, to elect Directors, to appoint Auditors and to transact any other ordinary business of the Company.

The Transfer Books and Register of Members of the Company will be closed from Monday, the 14th day of December 1953 to Monday, the 28th day of December 1953, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
T. L. LOO,
Acting Secretary
11th December, 1953.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

m.v. "HAINAN"
Damaged cargo ex this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at Hoi's Wharf from 10 a.m. on December 17, 1953, and consignees are requested to have their representatives present during the survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.
Hongkong, December 14, 1953.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

CONSIGNEES PER NIPPON Yusen Kaisha s.s. "KIKO MARU"

are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co's godown where it will be at consignees risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and condition of storage, and where delivery may be obtained.

Damaged packages are to be left in the godown for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors, Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on the 17th December, 1953.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Underwriter on or before the 24th December, 1953, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.
DODWELL & CO., LTD.
Agents
Hongkong, 15th December, 1953.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

s.s. "PERSEUS"

Damaged cargo ex this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs. Poulsen & Bayes-Davy at Hoi's Wharf from 10 a.m. on December 18 and 19, 1953, and consignees are requested to have their representatives present during the survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.
Hongkong, December 15, 1953.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

m.v. "AUTOLYCUS"

Damaged cargo ex this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at Hoi's Wharf from 10 a.m. on December 17 and 18, 1953, and consignees are requested to have their representatives present during the survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.
Hongkong, December 15, 1953.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

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are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co's godown where it will be at consignees risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and condition of storage, and where delivery may be obtained.

Damaged packages are to be left in the godown for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors, Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on the 18th December, 1953.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after the 19th December, 1953, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Underwriter on or before the 24th December, 1953, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.
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Hongkong, 15th December, 1953.

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"CARTHAGE"	18th December	10th January
"CORFU"	10th January	12th February
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"UMARIA"	due 10th Dec.	from Karachi, Bombay, Colombo & Straits
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"NELLORE"	due 10th Dec.	from Australia
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"NELLORE"	sails 17th Jan.	for Sydney, Adelaide & Melbourne

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Eisenhower Talks Atoms To Mayors

Washington, Dec. 14.

President Eisenhower today told some 175 mayors that it was practically impossible to exaggerate the need for American cities to prepare themselves for a possible atomic attack.

Mr. Eisenhower's remarks were made at the beginning of a two-day closed door conference, called by himself, on problems of national defense.

The White House made the President's remarks public two hours later.

In his address, Mr. Eisenhower said that the American city had moved "into the front line" from its historical "position of support in the rear."

The stage had now been reached, he said, "where the matter (of defense) can no longer be wholly handled by professional or organized military forces."

"I think it is most easily described," he explained, "Mr. Eisenhower said, 'by the simple truth that what would be necessary is the readiness of fire departments, hospital and health departments, police departments, sanitation departments—all must be prepared to handle their jobs.'"

Mr. Eisenhower stressed that "for the first time in history, cities have become principle targets for any enemy seeking to conquer our nation."—Reuter.

Vienna, Dec. 15.

The Rumanian Government today announced a generous increase in the workers' pension scheme, and substantial reductions in workers' rents.

According to the Rumanian agency, Agencepres, the improvements are as follows:

Men working in similar arduous jobs under unhealthy conditions will be eligible for old pensions at the age of 50.

Men in certain other jobs will be eligible for pensions at 55.

Reuter.

P.G.

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San Miguel

Christmas Dinner In Flight



Somebody whispered 'Christmas' to this wise bird—and he took safety in flight at a North Somerset farm. But Jean Osborne, 18, doesn't intend to let a Christmas dinner get away that easily.—Reuterphoto.

Rhodesia And Nyasaland Federation Africans Living In Two Different Worlds

Salisbury, S. Rhodesia, Dec. 14.

The indigenous African inhabitants of the new Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland are living in two worlds.

Many of them, particularly those in closest contact with the white people of the towns, have acquired a veneer of "Western Civilisation."

Many have attained a high degree of education, and are qualifying for positions of increasing responsibility.

By African standards, many are rich. They own shops, motor buses, and transport services.

To every urban African, the bicycle, the "zoot tie" and the gramophone are familiar necessities.

In the native reserves, great strides have been made in soil conservation and improved farming methods. The primitive wooden sledge is giving way to the Scotch cart as a means of transport. Africans who only knew the hoe now use the plough. Some own tractors.

Last year, the African farmers grew more maize than their European counterparts in Southern Rhodesia.

That is one world. But there is the other—the old dark world of primitive Africa, still in the background.

This is a world of superstition and fear, of danger from wild beasts, and the risk of starvation if the ancestral spirits are angry and do not send the rain.

This world is hardly known to the white man, either here or overseas. Only occasionally reports of incidents reach the local newspapers.

Here are just a few of the out of the way incidents recorded this year:

CLEANSING

The scarlet-robed judge sitting in the High Court at Salisbury, recently heard the story of a "cleansing ceremony" in which hundreds of natives had been given doses of medicine intended to make them "put away evil things."

The accused, a Nyasaland native, named Richard Bwami, said that he had been asked to conduct the ceremony by the local chief who thought that

some of his people were casting spells on him.

Bwami looked at the faces of the people in a mirror, to see which of them were possessed by evil things. To these he gave them doses of medicine which caused diarrhoea and violent sickness. While they were ill, they were told to confess their sins.

Five elderly natives died as a result of taking the medicine, and Bwami was sent to prison for four years. He protested to the end that the men who had died had not been killed by him, but by God.

The cleansing ceremony took place not 30 miles from the Federal capital of Salisbury.

KIDNAPPING

Earlier this year, at Fort Johnston in Nyasaland, three Africans, including one woman, were sent to prison for seven years for kidnapping a youth, with the intention of killing him and using his flesh to make "medicine."

They admitted that they had eaten human flesh in the past. Near Rusape, in a flourishing farming area of Southern Rhodesia, African building workers went on strike, declaring that the place where they were building a new tobacco barn was haunted.

When they dug holes to prepare clay for brickmaking, large quantities of bones and human skulls were unearthed. When

more holes were dug, more bones were found.

Then one of the children of the man who had dug the holes died suddenly, and another was taken ill. A man who volunteered to continue the digging was seriously injured when a steam boiler scalded his face with a jet of steam.

No more work was done until the farmer sent for a Mohammedan lay preacher, who exorcised the place by burning sticks of incense in the holes.

After that, the labourers returned to work. But they still refuse to walk past the newly-built barn at night. One of its walls shows up white in the darkness, because bleached bones got mixed into the clay from which the bricks were made.

It is believed that the barn was built on the site of an old graveyard, where large numbers of Africans who died in some forgotten battle were buried.

Sudden death or serious accidents are always possible in the less developed parts of Central Africa. Tales of men, women and children being seized by crocodiles while crossing rivers are common. To be confronted, and even attacked by a lion is nothing very unusual.

Sometimes there is an air of grim humour about some of these accidents. At a village in Northern Rhodesia recently, an African awoke to hear a leopard killing some of his hens.

He went out to investigate but found that the leopard had fled, so he set about mending the hole made by the marauder in his fowl-run.

The hens continued to squawk with fright, and the man's father-in-law came out to investigate. Seeing what he took to be a leopard still in the pen, he struck at it with a heavy stick. The unfortunate owner of the fowls was taken to hospital with severe head injuries.—China Mail Special.

COLUMBIAN AGREEMENT

Bogota, Dec. 14.

President Gustavo Rojas Pinilla and the Argentine Foreign Minister, Jeronimo Remorino, agreed today to negotiate a commercial agreement with Colombia.

The agreement, which the Economic Union sponsored by Argentina and Chile.

Formal negotiations for the agreement will start tomorrow and are expected to be long.

A commission of Argentine technicians will come next month for the final stage.

United Press.

China Mail Special.

TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

BRITAIN'S RESERVES

November Increase Due To Russian Export Of Gold

By Sydney S. Campell, Reuter's Financial Editor

London, Dec. 14.

The increase of \$41 million in Britain's gold and dollar reserves during November may have included some gold or dollars (or both) from Russia, and the reserves may also benefit from this source in later months. There is no official confirmation but a good deal of circumstantial evidence, including the arrival at London Airport, on November 30, of nearly 17 tons of Russian gold, worth about \$19 million.

The reserves have increased in every one of the first eleven months of this year. December will break this happy sequence. On December 31 of every year for the rest of this century Britain has to repay about \$180 million on the North American loans which she raised in 1946 and spent in the convertibility crisis of 1947.

November's increase of \$41 million included \$24 million of United States aid, compared with \$13 million in October. But it arose after a British payment of \$15 million to the European Payments Union, in half settlement of the sterling areas' October deficit with the Union, the surplus with the rest of the world rose from \$15 million in October to \$32 million in November. This item, of any, would include gold and dollars received from Russia.

Britain's surplus of £3.2 million (provisional) with the EPU in November contrasts favourably with the deficit of £1.1 million in October, but is none too good for this time of year, when seasonal factors in Continental trade should be running in Britain's favour.

The surplus will bring Britain about \$4.5 million from the EPU this month, instead of the British payment of \$15 million to the Union last month. But £4.5 million does not go very far towards the North American debt payments of \$180 million.

NOVEMBER FIGURES

Officially the November figures as a whole appear to be regarded as only moderately good—or good only in relation to the bad October ones—and as not justifying any departure from Whitehall's general cautious attitude.

Asked whether Britain's reserves were receiving any Russian gold, a Treasury spokesman said: "The Bank of England always stands ready to buy any gold offered to it at the appropriate price."

He added that the Bank never divulged its individual transactions.

This careful phrasing might imply not only that the Bank of England has bought some Russian gold but also that its "appropriate price" for buying it may have been slightly above or below its regular buying price of 248/- an ounce.

The world official price of \$35 equals 250/- at sterling's par value of \$2.80, or about 248/- at sterling's present exchange rate of about \$2.81.

In its normal gold dealings the Bank of England buys at 248/- and sells at 252/-. But some slightly different price may have been regarded as "appropriate" for Russian gold in abnormal circumstances.

There have been reports that Russian gold reaching the international free market is "laundered" in Holland, to remove the markings.

Unmarked gold is very anonymous. Regardless of any special characteristics of Russian gold, the 248/- may be regarded as the Bank of England's retail buying price.

In wholesale, lots from any origin it is, in effect, a dealer in gold.

For example, the price that it actually pays for South African gold is believed to be variable with the exchange rate, and generally a little higher than 248/-.

Another pointer is that the inflow into Britain's reserves, increased during November while the outflow from U.S. reserves, apparently, dwindled. It is as though the British gold did not come from the U.S. at all.

Somehow, some source somewhere, the gold came.

Reuter.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET

(From Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$299,817.50. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions:

SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES

BANKS

H. K. Bank 1000 1010 10 @ 1005

INSURANCES

Union 845 850

SHIPPING

Waterboat 10.40

Asia Nav. 1.15

DOCKS, ETC.

K. Wharf 21.20 21.10 50 @ 84 1/2

Provost (O) 12.15 12.70 800 @ 12.70

Wheelock XD 8 8.15 1000 @ 8.10

Watson 20.60 20.50 100 @ 8.05

LAND, ETC.

H. K. Hotel 8 8.55 1500 @ 8.55

Star Ferry 145

C. Light (O) 12.40 13.10 2000 @ 13.50

C. Light (W) 10.50 10.60 @ 10 1/2

Electric 20.70 100 @ 20.70

Telephone 20.60 20.50

INDUSTRIALS

Cement 18.80 19 500 @ 18.80

100 @ 18.80

Topo 16.60 16.90

STORES, ETC.

Dairy 24

Watson 20 22 1/2 @ 20 1/2

Lane Crawford 24.30

COTTONS

Ewo 2 2.05 5000 @ 2

Testa 0.25 500 @ 0.25

MISCELLANEOUS

Entertainment 10 200 @ 19.10

Yangtze 6.20 1000 @ 6.20

Nationalisation Of India's Industries

Calcutta, Dec. 14.

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, told the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce here today that nationalisation of all key industries in India was "inevitable."

He appealed for a new deal through fair play for labour and urged industrialists to tackle labour disputes with a human approach.

He said the Government aimed at converting India into a welfare state because conditions were ideally suited to this. But the process could not be hurried and success largely depended upon the maintenance of world peace.

For this reason, if for no other, Mr. Nehru said his Government stood steadfastly for peace and tried to develop friendly relations with all nations.

Mr. Nehru said the Indian Government allowed "private sectors" to operate within India's economic framework but these sectors must be prepared to co-operate themselves with the Government, he added.

Reuter.

The Rubber Markets

New York, Dec. 14.

Rubber futures today closed 35 to 45 points lower with sales of 60 contracts.

More selling at the close was attributed to hedging against overnight purchases in the shipment market.

Consumer interest remained at a low ebb. Some dealers buying was reported on No. 1 Res. March arrival, at 20 1/2 cents. Spot No. 1 Res were quoted at 20 1/4 cents per pound. Prices of future closings were:

March 20.30

May 20.30

July 20.30

Sept. 20.30

Dec. 20.40

March 20.40

—United Press.

AMSTERDAM MARKET

Amsterdam, Dec. 14.

The rubber market was quiet. Prices closed today as follows: (in guilders per kilogram): No. 1 rubber Jan. 1.70 nom. No. 2 rubber Jan. 1.65 paid No. 3 rubber Jan. 1.60 buyer No. 1 rubber crepe Jan. 1.54 nom. —United Press.

Oil And Oilseed

New York, Dec. 14.

Oil, and oilseeds were all unchanged except the following: Tallow extra 20 1/4 cents No. 1 soybean 21 1/2 cents No. 2 soybean 21 1/4 cents No. 1 soybean 21 1/4 cents —United Press.

Jap-Isbrandtsen Tie-Up?

Tokyo, Dec. 15.

Toshio Madono, an executive of the Nippo Shosen (Steamship) Company who returned here yesterday afternoon from the United States aboard a Pan American liner, declined to comment when asked about the reported tie-up with the Isbrandtsen Shipping Company, as would the world service, according to Japanese press reports.

At the local airport he told reporters that his company will make an announcement on the tie-up after he reports to the Executive Board on the outcome of negotiations he had conducted in the United States.

He added he had gone to the United States to sign a contract for chartering of oil tankers.

The Nippo Shosen is capitalised at 97 million yen.—Reuter.

GRAINS IN CHICAGO

Chicago, Dec. 14.

Prices per bushel in cents: Closing Prices

Wheat, No. 2, red 20 1/2

Spot 20 1/2 (11) 20 1/2

March 20 1/2

May 20 1/2

July 20 1/2

Sept. 20 1/2

Dec. 20 1/2

March 20 1/2

May 20 1/2

July 20 1/2

Sept. 20 1/2

Dec. 20 1/2

March 20 1/2

May 20 1/2

July 20 1/2

Sept. 20 1/2

Dec. 20 1/2

March 20 1/2

May 20 1/2

July 20 1/2

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Dec. 20 1/2

March 20 1/2

May 20 1/2

July 20 1/2

Sept. 20 1/2

Dec. 20 1/2

March 20 1/2

May 20 1/2

July 20 1/2

Sept. 20 1/2

Dec. 20 1/2

March 20 1/2

May 20 1/2

Jap Trading Extension

Singapore, Dec. 14.

Malayan traders have been given a three-month extension to March 1954 to use this year's quotas for importing Japanese textiles, it was reported here today.

Mr. W. H. Walker, Singapore Controller of Imports and Exports, was quoted as saying: "The extension is to allow merchants to use this year's quotas until the Government has consulted the local Chamber of Commerce on the Japan trade policy to be followed next year and an announcement is expected shortly. Merchants in Singapore and Malaya were allowed to import textiles to the value of \$0 million Straits dollars from Japan

during this year. But to the end of August they had imported only \$24,500,000 worth."

Leading traders told pressmen that the Indonesian Government's trade ban on imports from Malaya was the main reason for the drop in textile trade with Japan. Licences issued in Singapore and Malaya up to November for all categories of goods from Japan, including textiles, totalled 128 million Straits dollars.—China Mail Special.

Brazil's Economic Development Since The War

New York, Dec. 14.

It has been a period of remarkable growth and far-reaching structural changes in Brazil's economy, reported the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in its current issue of Business Conditions Monthly Review.

Since 1939, the report continued, the country's production of goods and services has increased by more than three thirds, with more than three quarters of the rise occurring since the war.

Real income has expanded even more than output, particularly during 1949 to 1951, because of the striking improvement in the country's terms of foreign trade; by mid-1953, it had risen to almost double the pre-war level while, on a per capita basis, it had increased by about 60 per cent despite an increase of more than 30 per cent in population.

JAPANESE TRADE DIFFICULTIES

Tokyo, Dec. 15.

The Parliamentary Vice Minister of International Trade and Industry, Mr. Shinzo Fukuike, told the Lower House that it is considered extremely difficult for Japan to export ammonium sulphate to Communist China in the near future, according to Japanese press reports yesterday.

He said he was fully aware Red China will become one of the markets for Japanese chemical fertilisers in the future, but he explained Japanese fertiliser makers can hardly spare any sizable amount of fertiliser for Red China, until after March next year, when spring seeding will come to an end in this country.

Now the country is heading for a drought season when an increased supply of power for fertiliser companies will be almost impossible, he added.—Reuter.

OTHER COUNTRIES

As in other countries undergoing economic development, the rates of output growth in the various sectors of the Brazilian economy have diverged rather sharply, and the country's regions and social groups have shared unequally in the rise in real income.

Increases in output of the manufacturing and industries of construction, in highway and air-transportation, and in the production of certain domestic foodstuffs have spearheaded the growth in total production.

In contrast, there has been a lag of export-crop output, little progress in the production of domestic fuels, notably petroleum, and increasing bulk-transportation deficiencies.

POWER PRODUCTION

Although power production has increased even more rapidly than manufacturing output, it has been unable to match the growth in demand due to accelerated industrialisation, urbanisation, and the movement of agricultural production to living areas in southwestern Brazil.

The growth of key sectors of the economy has been accompanied by a severe price, cost, and income inflation. Since 1939 wholesale prices and the cost of living have risen more than five-fold while the money supply has increased almost ten times. Although a continuing expansion of the money supply

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JOHN CLARKE'S
CASEBOOK

Flight To London

JANET lived in a fine house in a beautiful part of Scotland, and there were many who envied her. She was envied for her possessions and for her position in local society, for her good looks and the good clothes she wore so well. No one envied her courage, for she managed to conceal the fact that she owned that quality to any remarkable extent. Yet she did.

There are all kinds of courage, and no boundaries decide where it may be found. Battlefields and back streets, sick rooms and the atmosphere, all have their heroes and heroines; and only a few of them are ever heard about.

The Edinburgh kind of life that Janet led might not seem promising as a proving ground for courage; but it can be so.

NERVES

PART of the price to be paid for that kind of life is to have to take a year-round, year-in-year-out round of small public duties that can be irksome to one who is fit, intolerable to one who is not. Janet was far from fit. She suffered from nervous trouble, but she carried on with her chores.

A little while ago, when breaking-point seemed uncomfortably close, Janet agreed with her husband that she would go to London to get a specialist. A seat was booked for her in an evening aeroplane and she flew south.

PANIC

AT the always terminal, Janet took a taxi which, instead of moving off at once, stayed where it was. Janet's nerves began to protest at the delay. "Driver," she began.

"The driver," said in his seat, "Where to?" he demanded.

Then, for the first time, Janet realized she had made no hotel reservations in London. She was seized by something like panic, and straight decisive thinking deserted her. She cried to the driver: "You must know some hotel—that's central, take me there, anywhere."

"Well, there's a place you might get in," the driver said. They drove off.

NO ROOMS

THE short journey played havoc with Janet's nerves. By the time she reached the hotel, she was taut, tense, only just in control of herself. She paid off the driver and pushed through the swing doors into the hotel lobby.

The reception clerk, seeing Janet, her hair awry, her steps unsteady, swayed towards his desk, drew his own conclusions. "Sorry," he said coldly, "we have no rooms free."

Janet was shown out. She began to argue and protest, tried to get back in again. The police were called. Next morning, at Bow Street, Janet pleaded not guilty to a charge of being drunk and disorderly.

OVER-WROUGHT

SHE sat in the dock with bowed head in hand, a handsome woman, tall, fair, pale, seeming not to listen while the police told their story. Her counsel rose and told Sir Laurence Dunne, the Chief Magistrate, the purpose of Janet's journey south. He began to sketch her background. "Her husband is well known," he said, "and I hoped not to have to mention his name. I am sure if you look at my client and see how overwrought she is, you will understand how a mistake could have been made."

"I think, perhaps, the less you say the better," the Chief Magistrate said gently. "I was hoping you might take that view, sir," said counsel, and sat down.

Janet was discharged. She went out leaning on the gaoler's arm. And in the passage outside, the "regulars" nursing their hangovers and awaiting their own brief moments in the dock, eyed her going curiously. Through the blue cigarette smoke they muttered small sympathies for one they took to be a fellow-sufferer, who, in one sense, was, perhaps, just that.

THE COMMUNISTS REPEAT "PERFIDY" CHARGE

Munsan, Dec. 15.

The Communists, instead of withdrawing the "perfidy" charge against the United States, have repeated it.

The United States Special Ambassador, Mr. Arthur Dean, before leaving Korea today, said the Communists had sent a letter yesterday and in this had formally repeated the perfidy charge.

It was this Communist action which last Saturday persuaded Mr. Dean to break off the talks at Panmunjom aimed at arranging a Korean conference.

Mr. Dean was leaving Korea today for Washington with the Communists under notice that the talks would not be resumed until the perfidy charge was withdrawn.

Mr. Dean's deputy, Mr. Kenneth Young, was to stay here for another week to see if the Communists moved to return negotiations. "NO INSULT"

Mr. Dean today released a copy of a letter from the Communists dated December 14.

The Communists said: "We hold that to say the United States side is perfidious is completely consistent with the facts, and that there is no insult to speak of."

Mr. Dean said he had replied to the reiterated charge and called the Communist statement "completely false."

The Communists, in their letter yesterday, suggested that the talks be resumed today.

Mr. Dean replied: "I shall not be with you on December 15 or at any other time until you make appropriate retraction or correction of this insult in a manner satisfactory to my Government."

The Communist charge arose in connection with the South Korean mass release of war prisoners from United Nations Command camps.

The Communists had said this was done with the understanding and connivance of the United States.

Mr. Dean refused to accept this accusation of "perfidious conduct."—Reuter.

TIGHTEN CONTROL

Panmunjom, Dec. 15.—Hard core "Korean Communists" holding some of the 22 American non-repatriates as prisoners inside the mud huts of their Panmunjom compound to prevent any last-minute defections, Allied sources believed today.

These sources said the pro-Communist or Communist "cell" leaders among the captives apparently had tightened their control over the young soldiers with threats and imprisonment. They said the "pros" feared that the powerful sentimental pull of Christmas time and the presence of one of their mothers in Tokyo might lead several of

Transfer Of Jurisdiction

Bonn, Dec. 14.

Jurisdiction in most of the criminal and civil actions now being dealt with by the United States High Commission courts will be transferred to German courts after January 1, 1954, the High Commission announced today.

A law transferring jurisdiction was promulgated today. It was signed by the High Commissioner, Dr. James B. Conant. It transfers jurisdiction over all criminal offences committed by Germans against the property of the Allied forces and their members or against their laws except for certain offences involving duties or services to the occupation authorities. The term "certain offences" was not explained.

It also transfers civil actions against members of the Allied forces except where "security considerations or other cogent considerations render this inappropriate."

(A similar regulation has been in effect in the British zone of Germany for some years.)

Paternity and divorce cases involving members of the United States forces will not be transferred to German courts nor would the new law extend the criminal jurisdiction of German courts over American citizens. (At present American nationals of the occupation authorities cannot be tried in German courts. Americans not accredited to these authorities can be tried by German courts.)—Reuter.

Beginning Of Winter Offensive?

Paris, Dec. 15.

Vietminh attacks against French positions on the Tonkin-Laos border may mark the start of the long-expected Communist winter offensive in Indo-China, according to reports received here last night.

As the reinforced garrison of Dien Bien Phu awaited the attacks of the crack Vietminh 316th Division, reported only about six miles away, General Vo Nguyen Giap, the Vietminh Commander-in-Chief, was stepping up attacks in the vital Red River delta and other battle sectors.

Military quarters here saw these attacks as a clear indication that the Vietminh aimed at wresting the military initiative from the French, who have for the first time in the campaign, held it for the first two months of the battle season.

Some quarters in close touch with Indo-Chinese affairs believed operations were also intended to give the Vietminh leader, Ho Chi-minh, a stronger hand at possible armistice talks.

But his renewed suggestion yesterday for truce talks failed to provoke any reaction from the French Government, which stands by its view that the Vietminh should make their proposals known through official channels, such as a neutral diplomatic mission in Peking.

Military quarters here believed that instead of launching an all-out attack against Dien Bien Phu, the Vietminh commander might content himself with "pinning down" the large French forces concentrated there while switching the main offensive power to the Red River delta around Hanoi.

Vietminh units attacked a French military post about 50 kilometres (just over 30 miles) east of Hanoi during the week-end but were beaten back after French reinforcements had arrived.

New Vietminh assaults were also reported from Southern Vietnam, where a number of military posts were attacked 100 kilometres (about 60 miles) west of Saigon. Vietminh offensive operations in Annam appeared to be aiming at reaching the Mekong River.—Reuter.

World Travel Conference

Manila, Dec. 15.

Preparation for a world travel conference scheduled to be held in Manila from January 25 to February 2 next year are well underway and it is estimated that 100 Japanese delegates will attend the meeting, aside from those coming from other countries.

Secretary Balmaceda, who is also chairman of the Philippine Travel and Tourist Association, said that important matters will be discussed during the conference to secure effectively of tourist rates over the Pacific.

A conference brochure, now being prepared will be distributed not only to delegates but to all travel, hotel and transportation offices throughout the world.—France-Press.

To Dance Before Princess



There is no borrowing ballet shoes from her colleagues for Patricia Miller, the South African who came to London five years ago, for Patricia has the smallest feet of the Sadlers Wells Company, and always has to keep a large stock of shoes in readiness. When the company gives a gala performance before Princess Margaret, Patricia will dance the lead in "Pineapple Poll"—London Express.

Italian Industrial Strike Today

Rome, Dec. 15.

Italy's major industries came to a halt at dawn today answering a joint strike call by Communist and Christian unions.

Six million workers are expected to down tool for 24 hours.

The strike is limited to six hours for the staffs of privately-owned transport services.

Labour leaders say the stoppage is intended as a warning to industrialists who have turned down union demands for a reform of the wage system throughout Italian industry.

Communist trade unionists say that if it fails, it will be followed by a wave of tactical strikes in the nerve centres of the country's industry.

Christian Democrat Labour leaders, who have small hope that the protest strike will break the resistance of the industrialists, have not yet disclosed their future plans.

All essential public services are exempted from the strike, but the big iron and steel, mechanical, textile and chemical industries employing more than 1,500,000 workers will be paralysed from 6 a.m., local time this morning.

The strike of 204,000 workers in privately-owned transport is organised to cause minimum inconvenience—three hours in mid-morning and three hours in mid-afternoon.

Four days ago the nation's railways were paralysed by a similar 24-hour protest strike by Government employees.

Called so near to Christmas the two strikes put a severe strain on the followers of the two labour confederations working in a rare alliance.

All Government employees who struck on Friday lost a day's pay and all special allowances and were threatened with loss of promotion.

LOSE DAY'S PAY Today's strikers will also automatically lose a day's pay. Those working in small industrial concerns, where trade union protection is less efficient, may also risk their jobs.

This fear of being plunged into Italy's permanent pool of 2,000,000 unemployed is expected to limit the effectiveness of the strike in all but the biggest industries.

Long-standing demands for higher pay and pension benefits are being pressed.

The small neo-Fascist body will also take part. When the industrial workers struck last September the management argued that the country's economy would not stand the additional outlay of

MILK, EGGS, GRAPEFRUIT STOLEN FROM KENNEDY ROAD ARMY QUARTERS

A burglary at the Army quarters at 44 Kennedy Road, in which two bottles of milk, a quantity of eggs and some grapefruit were among the goods stolen, was recalled before Judge J. Reynolds at the Victoria District Court this morning.

Evidence was given that the two milk bottles, taken from the refrigerator, were found empty outside the house early the following morning.

In the dock stood two unemployed men, Leo Tak and Li Wal, alias Lee Ming. Both were charged with burglary and larceny, in that between 11 p.m. on October 12 and 6.45 a.m. on October 13, they stole from the dwelling of Major Frances Robinson, WRAC, and Dr. Suzette Duncay, RAMC, an electric fan, an electric iron, and an alarm clock, in addition to the food mentioned above.

The first accused faced a further charge of burglary and larceny, in that on October 12, he with others unknown stole an electric fan from Sgt-Maj. E. Southern at his quarters in Kennedy Road.

There was also an alternative charge of receiving stolen property.

The second accused faced three other counts of burglary, all alleged to have been committed in different dwellings at the same Army quarters.

Chief Inspector W. Eggleston told the Court that there was no actual breaking into premises, but that entry was made through a window and the exit was effected through a rear door.

SEEN HIDING

He said that on the night of October 17-18, Sgt-Maj. Southern was awakened by his children in the Army quarters, as a result of which he toured the house to investigate. The first accused was seen hiding behind some bushes nearby. He ran away, but was eventually caught in Kennedy Road by some Police-men on patrol and a Military Police corporal.

Near the spot where the first accused was first seen, an electric fan which had previously been missing from the sergeant-major's quarters was found.

Following inquiries, the first accused was charged with the offences. The second accused was subsequently arrested.

Major Frances Robinson, WRAC, testified that the ground floor of 44 Kennedy Road was occupied by the WRAC Officers' Mess. During the relevant period, she was on leave, although she left some of her property in the house.

On her return from leave, she learned that a burglary had taken place. She found an electric iron and an alarm clock missing. None of the property was recovered.

\$10 MISSING

Dr. Suzette Duncay, RAMC, stationed at the British Military Hospital, Bowen Road, gave evidence that when she awoke on the morning of October 12 at her quarters in Kennedy Road, her maid-servant called her attention to the fact that a number of handbags, including her own, were lying on the ground outside the house. She found \$10 missing from her handbag.

Also, some food was found to be missing from a refrigerator

Mail Notices

Had Excess Passengers

Summoned for a breach of junk licence conditions by carrying excessive passengers, Chan Fook-sing, 44, who represented Li Wal-heung, owner of a motor trading junk, was fined \$50 by Mr. A. G. Parker at the Marine Court this morning.

Chan said when the case was called that Li was living in Macao and was very old. He had taken over the management of the vessel a long time ago.

Sub-Insp. K. T. Wong, prosecuting, told the Court that the 1,003-picul junk was intercepted by Sub-Insp. C. C. Wong off the Kowloon Wharf at about 2.30 p.m. on December 1. The junk was carrying a total of 70 persons at the time. On inspecting the licence book, Sub-Insp. Wong found out that the vessel was allowed to carry 18 persons only.

In mitigation, Chan said that on November 30, one of the vessels of the Co-operative and Marketing Department had broken down, and he was asked to take over the task of moving the vegetables. The passengers, who were not charged any fare, were the owners of the vegetables.

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T. 5 Time Signal and Programme Summary: 5.05, Melody with the Stars; 5.30, BBC Handstand; 6.00, News; 6.15, World News; 6.30, News; 6.45, News; 7.00, News; 7.15, News; 7.30, News; 7.45, News; 8.00, News; 8.15, News; 8.30, News; 8.45, News; 9.00, News; 9.15, News; 9.30, News; 9.45, News; 10.00, News; 10.15, News; 10.30, News; 10.45, News; 11.00, News; 11.15, News; 11.30, News; 11.45, News; 12.00, News; 12.15, News; 12.30, News; 12.45, News; 1.00, News; 1.15, News; 1.30, News; 1.45, News; 2.00, News; 2.15, News; 2.30, News; 2.45, News; 3.00, News; 3.15, News; 3.30, News; 3.45, News; 4.00, News; 4.15, News; 4.30, News; 4.45, News; 5.00, News; 5.15, News; 5.30, News; 5.45, News; 6.00, News; 6.15, News; 6.30, News; 6.45, News; 7.00, News; 7.15, News; 7.30, News; 7.45, News; 8.00, News; 8.15, News; 8.30, News; 8.45, News; 9.00, News; 9.15, News; 9.30, News; 9.45, News; 10.00, News; 10.15, News; 10.30, News; 10.45, News; 11.00, News; 11.15, News; 11.30, News; 11.45, News; 12.00, News; 12.15, News; 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